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Japan

Prefectural Assembly Urges SOFA Revision

OW2109052495 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 19 Sep 95 Evening Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] In reaction to an incident in which U.S. servicemen abducted and raped a girl, the prefectural assembly (chaired by Chiken Kakazu) held an extraordinary meeting on the morning of 19 September and unanimously approved a written opinion and a protest resolution demanding, among other things, 1) immediate turnover of the suspects to Japanese authorities and 2) revision of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA]. The meeting clearly expressed strong anger, saying: "The incident vividly shows that they still have an occupation mentality and that there remains a deep-rooted tendency to ignore human rights. We absolutely cannot forgive this." A five-member group led by Chairman Kakazu left for Tokyo on the afternoon of the same day. On 20 and 21 September, they will visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Defense Agency, the headquarters of U.S. Forces in Japan [USFJ], and other organizations to bid for support and file a protest.

At the beginning of the meeting, Tsunemasa Shimoji, chairman of the Special Committee for Military Affairs, explained the reason for the motives behind the actions of the 12 assembly members who proposed the meeting to adopt the resolution. He strongly criticized the act of the servicemen, saying: "Although half a century has passed, the number of recent incidents and accidents involving the U.S. military is far too high, and the prefectural people's distrust and anger have reached the peak. The incident itself is an outrage against humanity and a most wicked, barbaric act." Pointing out that the incident involved a planned criminal act and that the U.S. military refuses to hand over the suspects to Japanese authorities, using SOFA as an excuse, Shimoji pointed out: "They added fuel to the prefectural people's anger."

He then called for 1) an immediate handover of the suspects to Japanese authorities; 2) preventing criminal acts by U.S. military personnel and their dependents by enforcing discipline among U.S. servicemen; 3) an early apology and compensation to the victim; and 4) an early revision of the SOFA and reduction of military bases. In addition to the four demands, the written opinion urges the prefectural government "to realize the seriousness and abnormality of the issue and make the same representations to the U.S. Government."

After adopting the resolution, five representatives — Moritada Kikuyama (of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]), Kenichi Miyagi (of the Social Democratic Party of Japan and Gokenkyodo), Kazuma Oshiro (of Okinawa Socialist Mass Party), Yoshihide Isa (of the New Frontier Party), and Chairman Kakazu himself — went to Tokyo on the afternoon of 19 September.

The written opinion is addressed to the prime minister, foreign minister, director general of the Defense Agency, director general of the Okinawa Development Agency, and director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency. The protest resolution is addressed to the U.S. ambassador to Japan, coordinator of the USFJ in Okinawa, and U.S. consul general in Okinawa.

The extraordinary assembly meeting also adopted a resolution to protest against the 1 September accident in which a U.S. military Harrier jet crashed.

Moreover, the assembly meeting unanimously approved a written proposal and a protest resolution — which Kosaburo Nishime (LDP), chairman of the Administrative Planning Committee, had submitted on behalf of 16 members of all LDP factions — against nuclear tests by France and China. An extraordinary assembly meeting on 7 August adopted a resolution calling for suspension of nuclear tests. However, the recently approved resolution criticizes the fact that France forcibly conducted a test later. It says: "This is an act that ignores international public opinion, and we absolutely cannot tolerate it."

U.S. Agrees on Panel To Study Status Accord

OW2109104995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 KYODO — Japan and the United States formally agreed Thursday [21 September] to set up a panel to study legal aspects of an agreement on the status of U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan following mounting public outcry over the alleged rape of a schoolgirl in Okinawa, a Foreign Ministry official said.

The two sides agreed on the establishment of the panel during a meeting of the Japan-U.S. joint committee on the Status of Forces Agreement, the official said.

The decision followed an accord reached earlier in the day between U.S. Ambassador Walter Mondale and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono.

Mondale agreed to Kono's requests to convene an expert-level meeting under the joint committee to discuss criminal jurisdiction procedures under the existing framework of the Status of Forces Agreement.

The accord allows U.S. military authorities to hold the suspects until Japanese prosecutors formally indict them.

Three U.S. military personnel who allegedly abducted and raped the schoolgirl in Okinawa are currently being held by U.S. military authorities but voices demanding that they be immediately turned over to the Japanese side are growing in Japan.

The official said the details of the planned panel have yet to be ironed out but that Japan hopes to open the first round of the meeting as soon as possible, possibly by the end of the month.

Members from the Japanese side on the panel are expected to be officials from the Foreign Ministry, the Justice Ministry, the National Police Agency, the Maritime Safety Agency and the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, the official said.

The U.S. side is expected to be represented by officials from the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. military forces in Japan, he said.

The two sides will review all the aspects of the criminal jurisdiction procedures under the agreement, including the turning over of the U.S. servicemen to Japanese authorities, the official said.

Mondale said in a statement earlier in the day that the U.S. Government "believes there is no need to revise the status of forces agreement itself."

Kono also said the Japanese Government does not think debate on the revision of the accord should be taken up lightly.

Officials on Follow-Up Session for Paper Accord

OW2009234595 Tokyo KYODO in English
2305 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Sept. 20 KYODO — Japanese and U.S. officials clashed Wednesday [20 September] over the progress of foreign access into Japan's paper market under a bilateral agreement signed in 1992, Japanese officials said.

At a follow-up consultation here, the U.S. side called for beefing up the accord, blaming the low growth in foreign market share even after 1992 to a lack of commitment by the Japanese Government to comply with the agreement, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

They said the Japanese side rejected any revision of the accord itself, attributing the problem to insufficient U.S. efforts to enter Japan's market.

The two parties are considering meeting again in Tokyo in October, the officials said.

But with the United States expected to designate Japan's paper market later this month to its "Super 301" investigation, the officials said Japan will cut off discussions if the U.S. takes such a retaliatory measure.

Under the "Super 301" negotiation procedure of U.S. trade law, the administration of president Bill Clinton publishes annually a list of countries and their markets which it sees as engaged in unfair trade practices and seeks redress under threat of sanctions.

The list is normally issued at the end of September.

FTC Refutes Kodak Allegation on Fuji Film

OW2109102295 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 17 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Refuting Eastman Kodak Company's allegations that Japan's Fair Trade Commission [FTC] is overlooking Fuji Photo Film Company's violation of the Antimonopoly Act," the FTC maintains that "it is impossible that the FTC has overlooked the violation," (as stated by FTC Chairman Masami Kogayu). Taking advantage of a visit to Japan by senior U.S. Justice Department officials as early as September, the FTC intends to inquire about the U.S. Government's basic stance and views on Kodak's claim.

Based on agreements under the Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative talks and the Japan-U.S. economic framework talks, the FTC has worked on revising the Antimonopoly Act, including raising surcharges and tightening criminal penalties. Stressing its basic stance, the FTC notes that it has included in its budgetary request for fiscal 1996 a plan to newly set up a "special investigation department" and to upgrade the Executive Office to the general executive office to expand the role of the office.

As for the domestic film market, the FTC began monitoring prices of general-purpose film and photographic paper in the late 1970's. In 1981, the commission issued a retraction order to Fuji Film and its affiliated companies on the charge of engaging in resale price maintenance practices of x-ray film. The FTC stresses that it has checked practices of Fuji Film and the film industry in various cases based on the Antimonopoly Act.

The commission says that "if there is actually a violation, it always takes an action to correct that," (as stated by Akinori Yamada, chief of the FTC's public relations division).

The FTC believes that Kodak took this option after thoroughly considering whether it would be more effective file a petition in Japan or in the United States. As a result, Kodak's claims and information are not directly brought to the FTC, and thereby it "is difficult for the FTC to take an action," (as stated by a senior FTC official).

Although the USTR office is expected to propose negotiations with the Japanese Government, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] takes the position that it "will not accept talks under Section 301" of the 1974 U.S. Trade Act, (according to the International Trade Policy Bureau). However, MITI sees a large possibility that the USTR office will strongly demand negotiations through various bilateral consultations such as the Japan-U.S. negotiating table on condition that "negotiations should be held outside the scope of Section 301."

Hashimoto, Brittan on Trilateral Chips Talks

OW2109104295 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Leon Brittan, vice president of the European Commission, who is currently visiting Japan, met with Ryutaro Hashimoto, minister of international trade and industry, on the afternoon of 18 September. Concerning the semiconductor trade issue, he said: "The European Union [EU] wants to have a trilateral conference among Japan, the United States and the EU at an early time." He indicated that the EU strongly hopes to hold a multilateral conference involving European nations. In response, Hashimoto indicated that Japan will also give positive consideration to this.

Ex-Im Bank To Extend Loan to Swedish Firm

OW2009111895 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 20 KYODO — The Export-Import [Ex-Im] Bank of Japan said Wednesday [20 September] it has signed a loan agreement amounting to $50 million with AB Svensk Exportkredit of Sweden.

The loan will be utilized to finance capital investments as well as research and development investments by Swedish companies to export goods to Japan, the bank said.

AB Svensk, Sweden's public export credit organization, is jointly owned by the state and commercial banks.

This is the first case of the Ex-Im Bank providing funds for exports to Japan via a foreign financial institution, it added.

'Next' PRC Nuclear Test 'Agonizing' MOFA

OW2109104195 Tokyo EKONOMISUTO in Japanese 26 Sep 95 Edition p 14-15

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] is already agonizing over how to deal with China's "next" nuclear test. In reaction to the second nuclear test this year, which was carried out on 17 August, MOFA dodged domestic voices calling for a hard-line stand on China by deciding to freeze in principle grants-in-aid to the PRC. However, it is unavoidable that a debate on whether to cut yen loans to China will rekindle if China conducts its third nuclear test.

A MOFA official says: "The measure taken against the recent nuclear test was rather tough in order to express Japan's protest. We do not want to touch the yen loans since it is impossible to make China stop its nuclear tests. Yet, I am very concerned about public opinion when China conducts the third one."

Yen loans are of substantially greater significance for Sino-Japanese ties than Japan's grants-in-aid. This can be seen in the difference between the two amounts (over 100 billion yen in yen loan annually but only several billion yen in grants-in-aid). In addition, yen loans have already been included in China's mid-term program for nation building. If yen loans are cut, China may conclude that Japan's view on China's reform and open door policy has changed and Sino-Japanese ties may suffer a basic deterioration — this is the reason why MOFA is concerned.

MOFA is also paying attention to the fact that China has been making remarks linking the issues of nuclear testing with Japan's past invasion after Japan decided to freeze its grants-in-aid.

A senior MOFA official said: "From now on, China may openly express its feelings, which it has kept to itself out of consideration for Sino-Japanese relations. I am concerned that emotional conflicts may develop if Japan repeatedly imposes 'sanctions' against China's nuclear testings."

It is now likely that Japan's stand on China's nuclear tests may end up having a big impact on Sino-Japanese ties.

Officials Respond to Release of Economic Package

Nosaka: Package To Help Yen, Stocks

OW2109100495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 KYODO — The government's fresh economic stimulus package worth 14.2 trillion yen [Y] will prove to be effective despite negative reactions from financial markets, the chief government spokesman said Thursday [21 September].

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka told a news conference that implementation of steps included in the package will eventually correct the yen's higher level and the drop in stock prices that came in response to the package's release Wednesday afternoon.

Nosaka said the drop in share prices is attributable to companies' sales ahead of the midterm settlement of accounts at the end of this month, adding that exchange rates are unpredictable.

"Although we will keep a close eye on these moves, I believe we don't have to make a fuss about them," he said.

Shinozawa Comments on Issue

OW2109111295 Tokyo KYODO in English
1036 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 KYODO — Vice finance Minister Kyosuke Shinozawa said Thursday [21 September] the government's newly adopted pump-priming package was not to blame either for the yen's rebound against the dollar or tumbling stock prices.

Shinozawa said at a news conference, "there is absolutely no sense of disappointment over the economic package in the markets."

In Tokyo, the dollar dropped to the 100 yen level late Thursday compared with the upper half of the 103 yen level a day earlier, while Tokyo stock prices declined with the key index momentarily falling below the 18,000 line.

Shinozawa said the yen's resurgence was caused by several factors such as fluctuations in European currencies against the dollar, U.S. current account deficits and U.S. economist Fred Bergsten's remarks favoring an exchange rate of 90 yen.

Shinozawa reiterated his previous view that foreign exchange rates are under the process of an "orderly reversal" of the weak dollar as sought by the Group of Seven key industrial countries in April.

Shinozawa brushed aside concern over Thursday's drops in stock prices, saying, "you don't have to worry about stock movements yesterday and today."

Falls in stock prices reflect increasing sales by institutional investors to generate profits ahead of their Sept. 30 book closing for the first half of fiscal 1995, Shinozawa said.

Tsutsumi on Yen Rise Allegations

OW2109101895 Tokyo KYODO in English
0955 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 KYODO — The vice trade minister Thursday [21 September] refuted allegations that the yen's sharp rise against the dollar since Wednesday is the result of insufficiency in public works spending in the latest package of stimulus and deregulatory steps.

Tomio Tsutsumi, vice minsiter of international trade and industry, told a news conference the yen's rise of more than 2 yen since the announcement of the package "is the outcome of the bad trade balance figure" for July released by the U.S. Commerce Department on Wednesday.

He said both the scale and quality of real public works expenditures to be disbursed within the fiscal 1995 ending next March 31 are sufficient.

The 14.2 trillion yen bundle of stimulus measures includes such public works expenditures of more than 8 trillion yen.

Meanwhile, Tsutsumi said the purpose of an imminent visit to the United States by Vice Trade Minister for International Affairs Yoshihiro Sakamoto is to coordinate the positions of Japan and the United States on topics to be discussed at an upcoming meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Sakamoto will start his visit to the U.S. next Monday.

He will not raise the thorny issue of the demand from Eastman Kodak Co. that Japan's Fuji Photo Film Co. stop practices that have allegedly led to limiting Kodak's access to Japanese consumers, Tsutsumi said.

MOF To Scrap Curb on Sale of Euroyen Bonds

OW2109094895 Tokyo KYODO in English
0903 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 KYODO — The Ministry of Finance [MOF] will abolish a rule banning sales for 90 days from the date of issuance of Euroyen bonds issued by Japanese companies in the Japanese market, ministry officials said Thursday [21 September].

The deregulatory measure will go into force next January at the earliest, they said.

The scrapping of the rule will come in tandem with the abolition, also scheduld for next January, of qualification standards, which would allow a company to issue corporate bonds, they said.

The new step will add fuel to domestic sales of Euroyen bonds and prompt various companies to count on this fund-raising measure, industry sources said.

The debt instrument may also garner great popularity among individual Japanese investors as the yen-denominated tool will free them from the risk of a rising yen wiping out a large portion of its value when converted back into the yen, they said.

A Euroyen bond — issued in the European money market — is cheaper to issue than corporate bonds issued in Japan. It also frees issuers from some official regulations imposed in Japan.

The cumulative value of euroyen bond flotations shot up 70 percent to 11.2 trillion yen in fiscal 1994, ended March 31. Nonresidents such as foreign governments and companies accounted for 96 percent of the figure.

The latest deregulatory step will be taken in response to growing calls from Japanese companies to give them a means of securing lower-cost funds, the officials said.

The 90-day requirement has been in place to prevent a hollowing out of the Japanese financial community, which is worried that Euroyen bonds may tempt companies to turn their backs on the domestic money market as a source of funds.

However, such reservations are disappearing in the face of a recent string of deregulatory measures concerning euroyen bonds, such as an easing of curbs on foreign governments in 1994 and on foreign companies Aug. 2, the officials said.

The ministry dismantled a similar curb on foreign companies as part of the August package of measures to engineer a weaker yen by removing restrictions on overseas investment and loans by Japanese companies.

Under Japanese regulations, Japanese corporate issuers of bonds are obligated to name "city" commercial banks or long-term credit banks as a guarantor, to which they have to pay a sum equivalent to 0.1 percent of the face value of all bonds issued.

Such a guarantor is then required to demand that an issuer pay the principal and interest to investors even if the issuer later goes bankrupt.

Because Euroyen bonds are purchased mainly by institutional investors who are deemed knowledgeable about the risks of such debt instruments, a corporate issuer of such bonds will be exempted from the obligation to name such a quarantor, and will not be required to pay the 0.1 percent fee, the officials added.

BOJ's Official Discount Rate Cut Reviewed

OW2109044995 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 23 Sep 95

[Unattributed article: "We Cannot Honestly Rejoice at U.S.-Induced Monetary Policies — Japan's Status 'Plunging' in International Monetary Markets"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 8 September, the Bank of Japan [BOJ] lowered the country's official discount rate by 0.5 percent, and the dollar's exchange rate temporarily rose to the 100-to-the-dollar level at the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market. As a result, the Tokyo Stock Exchange has registered a record turnover of approximately 1.4019 billion stocks in the heaviest trading since April 1993.

Although business circles overwhelmingly welcomed the BOJ's playing the "last card" it had up its sleeve, the cause of concern is not just whether the Japanese economy can now really get back on the path to recovery but also the unusually prompt but favorable reaction of the U.S. Government.

Only 30 minutes after the BOJ's official discount rate cut became effective at noon on 8 September (late at night [11 PM] on 7 September, Washington time), the U.S. Government welcomed the BOJ decision in a statement by U.S. Treasurer Robert Rubin, who said: "The BOJ's monetary relaxation is in line with the joint G-7 statement announced in April. We will continue to cooperate closely in the exchange markets." At about the same time, the Ministry of Finance's [MOF] International Finance Bureau [IFB] tactfully distributed copies of a Japanese translation of Rubin's statement at the MOF press club.

This shows that Japanese and U.S. authorities have been working in close cooperation since this summer, when they jointly intervened in foreign exchange markets on four separate occasions. In reality, however, it has been observed in some quarters that the latest interest rate cut was a U.S.-induced move rather than a joint action.

An official concerned with monetary affairs has stated: "Japan lowered the official discount rate at the request of the U.S. Treasury Department. U.S. Treasury officials strongly pressed a high-ranking Japanese MOF official who visited the United States in August, calling on Japan to go a step further in easing monetary policies and implementing fiscal policies. Secretary Rubin later called Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and directly requested the rate cut."

A factor behind this is that in view of next year's presidential election, U.S. President Bill Clinton wants to maintain "stable, low dollar interest rates," which have contributed to U.S. economic recovery since Clinton's inauguration.

Here is a domestic-affairs logic: If the value of the dollar rises as a result of Japanese monetary relaxation policies, institutional investors will take a renewed interest in investing in U.S. national bonds, and that would allow the Federal Reserve Board to lower interest rates.

The monetary official quoted above also said: "A stronger dollar is the best prescription for the MOF to press the stalled pump-priming measures. A senior IFB official strongly recommended to Kyosuke Shinozawa, administrative vice minister of finance, that the official discount rate be lowered. BOJ Governor Yasuo Matsushita heard about the official's remarks, and the U.S. Treasury Department was informed of the interest rate cut on the day before the announcement."

Although such finesse is to be appreciated, the BOJ's implementing monetary policies that lean too much in favor of the United States could have adverse effects on Japan's status.

The latest interest rate cut will probably give added impetus to the weakening of the yen, which in the meantime has continued to depreciate as if rolling down a hill. However, an excessive weakening of the yen could invite "capital flight" — a flow of U.S. and other foreign investment out of Japanese monetary markets. U.S. and other foreign financial firms are now moving their operational base in Asia from Tokyo to Hong Kong, Singapore, and other cities. There is a good possibility that a further weakening of the yen may accelerate the "exodus from Japan."

Some predict the yen exchange rate will "progress to the 120- or 130-yen-to-the-dollar level within the year." An interest rate of 0.125 percent, called the "Japan premium," has recently been added to transactions in the short-term monetary markets.

Let us remain wary of the possibility that the Japanese economy could collapse, the way things stand now.

DA To Reinforce Air Raid Alert System

OW2109045195 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 20 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Defense Agency [DA] has firmed up plans to reinforce the air raid alert system employed by the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] in Kyushu and Okinawa so that Japan can respond to neighboring countries' modernization of their military forces and possible outbreaks of regional conflicts. The DA plans to carry out the plans as part of its continuing review of the nation's post-Cold War defense capabilities. Among the main pillars of the DA's plans are 1) deploying additional F-15's, the DA's premier fighters, to Okinawa; and 2) enhancing Ground Self-Defense Force [GSDF] mobility in Kyushu via further mechanization of the units. When the plans are carried out, there will be a drastic change in the SDF's defense strategy, shifting from the Cold War "emphasis on the threat from the north," to a strategy in which the SDF will be "deployed evenly across the nation." The DA now intends to proceed cautiously in reviewing Japan's defense capabilities, paying attention to reactions in China and other neighboring countries.

Currently, the government is reviewing the "national defense program outline" at its Security Council meetings. So far, the Security Council has held four meetings where plans were confirmed to downsize SDF units and equip them with advanced military gear to respond to terrorist and subversive activities conducted by specially trained foreign troops. At the same time, however, the government basically maintains the traditional concept of "fundamental defense capability." In line with such plans, the DA intends to review deployment of SDF units.

The Chinese military has purchased powerful Sukhoi Su-27 fighters from Russia and deployed them in full combat readiness. Considering this and other developments, the Air Self-Defense Force [ASDF] is studying the possibility of equipping the Southwestern Composite Air Division in Naha, Okinawa, with F-15's to replace the F-4EJ fighters currently deployed there. The ASDF hopes to be prepared for possible enemy intrusion into Japanese territorial air space by replacing the F-4EJ's in Okinawa with F-15's, since the F-4EJ's will be out of service before long.

The GSDF plans to promote mechanization by equipping infantries belonging to the 4th Division (with headquarters located in Kasuga City, Fukuoka Prefecture) and the 8th Division (with headquarters in Kumamoto city, Kumamoto Prefecture) in Kyushu with more vehicles. With possible emergencies in mind, particularly on the Korean peninsula, the GSDF hopes to enhance its units' mobility so that they can be promptly deployed in case of, for example, a massive influx of refugees or an outbreak of terrorist and subversive activities. While the number of P-3C anti-submarine patrol aircraft is being reduced nationwide, the Maritime Self-Defense Force plans to keep the current number of P-3C's belonging to the 5th Fleet Air Wing on Okinawa at the present level.

Transparency of UX Screening Process Weighed

OW2109055495 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Following Diet discussions of doubts about selection of the next-generation multipurpose support fighter (UX), the Defense Agency [DA] on 16 September reviewed the screening method for UX candidate aircraft and set "regulations for the process of selecting aircraft." The distinctive feature of the regulations is that they open the selection process to the public by setting up consultative bodies — including a screening council for aircraft selection chaired by an administrative vice minister and, if needed, a study committee composed of men of learning and experience. This is the first step toward eliminating criticism of "selection behind closed doors."

Last year, the DA went through the process of selecting a candidate aircraft for the UX. However, since some people had begun to suspect that an aircraft had already been selected, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the DA, and the Cabinet Secretariat met and agreed to amend regulations to make the selection procedure transparent.

The recently approved aircraft selection procedure sets up a plan to unify the screening processes, which have up to now been conducted separately by the ground, maritime, and air staff offices, and to hold discussions at each screening stage by the staff offices and intraministerial bureaus. In addition to military officers, including chiefs of staff and the chairman of the Joint Staff Council, the screening council will be composed of the DA chief, defense policy bureau chief, equipment bureau chief, and other officials. The council will allow intraministerial bureaus to check up on screening, previously led by military officers.

Moreover, a study committee composed of men of learning and experience will be formed if the aircraft being screened are designed for commercial use, because there was a gap between common sense in the private sector and the DA's view regarding the purchase prices and operating costs of the three commercial aircraft that became candidates for the UX.

Although the recently approved measures introduce a plan to make the screening process transparent, some problems remain. First, a proviso was added that an aircraft produced "through technological development will be exempt" from the screening process. Because of this, the next-generation support fighter (FSX), jointly developed by Japan and the United Stats and increasingly criticized as the world's most expensive aircraft, will not be subject to screening.

Intraministerial bureaus will draw up two documents that will not be open to outsiders: an operation requirements document, which in fact determines the type of UX and stipulates operation goals at the beginning of the screening process; and a performance requirements document, which describes the required capabilities.

Some DA officials express concern, saying, "Although the screening process will be stricter, modification will be difficult if a button is put in the wrong buttonhole at the beginning."

Murayama on Shifting to New Party, Other Issues

OW2109041595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 KYODO — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Thursday [21 September] his Social Democratic Party (SDP) should transform itself into a new party as quickly as possible in the run-up to the next general election for the House of Representatives.

"I am afraid the result of the next general poll will be the worst ever if the SDP is left as it is to fight the election," said Murayama, the SDP chairman, in his address at the SDP's extraordinary party convention.

Murayama also cited the need for the SDP to seek a tie-up or cooperation with Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura's New Party Sakigake and other diverse political forces with an eye to including them in the planned new party.

Thursday's party convention is intended to open the way for the SDP to develop into a new party of liberals, democrats and other forces of diverse backgrounds by late October.

SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo presented to the meeting a policy report recommending the creation of a fresh party, which the SDP's policy-making Central Executive Committee endorsed on Wednesday.

The SDP is a key force in the current three-way coalition administration, which also includes Foreign Minister Yohei Kono's Liberal Democratic Party.

Citing the party's defeat in the House of Councillors poll in July, Murayama also said the planned new party should be formed as quickly as possible so it can win in the general election expected next year.

Murayama also pledged to fulfill his duties as prime minister at least until the fiscal 1996 state budget wins parliamentary approval next spring.

Touching on the government's new pump-priming package adopted Wednesday and a planned second extra budget for fiscal 1995, he said, "I am resolved to oversee the steady implementation of these steps, and the compilation and enactment of next fiscal year's budget."

Speculation has been rife that Murayama will resign as premier once the SDP develops into a new party, because he has said he will not take the helm of the planned party. In Japan, the prime minister is usually chief of a ruling party.

At Thursday's party convention, Murayama also urged solidarity of SDP members and spoke of the need to build a consensus on the proposal for launching a new party based on the SDP.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka, the closest aide to Murayama within the SDP, told a news conference later that Murayama's expression of his desire to stay on as premier at least until next spring was intended to allay concerns about his future.

"He renewed his determination to serve the country," Nosaka said, dismissing speculation the premier will step down later this year.

Timing of Murayama's Resignation Previewed

OW2009145695 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] After Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama indicated at an informal discussion with the press on domestic politics during his Middle East trip that he might resign shortly after the founding of a "new democratic-liberal party" based on the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], the timing of his resignation has become a focal issue on the political scene.

Although there are still other complicating elements, and numerous factors of uncertainty, such as what will happen to the SDPJ's efforts to form a new party by late October and the direction the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] will take after a new president is elected, the prime minister's remarks have certainly complicated the political scene because the issue is closely related to a possible dissolution of the Diet and the holding of general elections.

In November, After APEC?

In the LDP, the reaction of some members to Murayama's remarks is: "This can only be taken as an expression of a wish to bow out." (according to a senior official) This is taken to mean resignation after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum is held in Osaka in mid-November — that is, the theory of "resignation after APEC."

The SDPJ is wary of the possibility of the extraordinary Diet session extending beyond APEC caused by disputes over revision of the Religious Corporation Act. They fear this "may give rise to speculation about the prime minister's resignation, the possibility of dissolution of the Diet, and the holding of a general election." (according to a senior official) The SDPJ's concern is based on its belief that the LDP, which is taking advantage of its forthcoming presidential election to project an independent identity, may take a more hostile attitude to the New Frontier Party, whose main support group is the Soka Gakkai [a religious organization].

However, the prevailing opinion among Secretary General Wataru Kubo and other senior SDPJ officials is: "(The fact that the prime minister will not be the leader of the new party) does not necessarily mean that he wants to resign." They deny the possibility of the prime minister resigning immediately after the new party is founded.

The SDPJ, which is not likely to be joined by Sakigake [Harbinger] and political forces outside the SDPJ in the new party to be created in late October, evidently "hopes the resignation, which will lead to the dissolution of the Diet and a general election, can be deferred, and wants more time to enable it to recruit other political forces." (according to a senior official)

End of 1995 or Beginning of 1996, After Formulating the Budget?

Kubo has mentioned the period after the formulation of the FY96 budget as a possible "turning point in the political situation." This means there is a possibility Murayama may resign after the second supplementary budget is passed at the extraordinary Diet session and the new budget is formulated by the end of the year.

In such a case, the dissolution of the Diet and the holding of general elections may come at the beginning of the regular Diet session in January 1996.

Behind this position is the belief of some SDPJ members that "during the process of budget formulation, the LDP, asserting its independent identity, may clash with the [SDPJ-based] 'new party' over such issues as a freeze on land value tax, defense spending and so forth, and the prime minister may resign."

It is also true that other SDPJ members hold the opinion that "it might be better for the prime minister himself to take the initiative in dissolving the Diet and calling for general elections, riding on the momentum of the founding of the new party." (according to a senior official)

In April, After Passage of the Budget?

As the greatest issue for the Murayama cabinet is "economic stimulation," the prevailing view among the prime minister's close aides is that "he should carry on until the FY96 budget is passed (at the regular Diet session) in April." (according to a close aide of the prime minister)

In view of a growing clamor in the LDP for "a prime minister from the LDP" — based on the belief that "it is only to be expected that the prime minister should come from the number one party" (according to a former cabinet minister) — the SDPJ asserts the need to maintain the status quo from the standpoint of economic stimulation, claiming "continuous fiscal measures are needed, running from the second FY95 supplementary budget to the FY96 budget."

Furthermore, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka has come out as saying "we would like him to stay on until June (1996)." There are those who want the prime minister to remain until the end of the regular Diet session.

The basic position of the SDPJ, which is not yet ready to contest lower house elections, is that it is against an early dissolution of the Diet and a general election. Its honest feeling is that it would certainly like to go into the general election able to boast of the founding of the new party and success in stimulating the economy, mainly through the passage of the FY96 budget.

Presidential Candidate Koizumi States Policies

OW2109045295 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Junichiro Koizumi, former minister of posts and telecommunications, by undentified YOMIURI SHIMBUN reporter(s); place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [YOMIURI SHIMBUN] What do you think of the support you have obtained so far? How has support been for the privatization of the three Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications [MPT] business operations in particular?

[Koizumi] I think I have gained very real support. Although the subject is taboo among politicians, even young people have come to me and said, "We are in favor of privatization, so please do your best."

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] What is your impression of the debates you had with Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of international trade and industry?

[Koizumi] Our differences are not minor, tactical ones, so it is quite impossible for us to agree. However, at least my position that (privatization of MPT operations) is related to review of treasury investments and loans, reorganization of special public corporations, and economic stimulation is gaining much greater understanding. That is a substantial achievement.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] In what areas do you agree with Mr. Hashimoto in terms of policy?

[Koizumi] We agree that at this point, issuance of deficit-covering bonds will be inevitable. However, if we do not undertake radical administrative and fiscal reforms, this will only be a stopgap remedy. He does not seem to understand that.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] With regard to personnel appointments if Mr. Hashimoto becomes party president, is there any possibility that you will become a party executive?

[Koizumi] Even if there is an invitation for me to take up a party post, I will turn it down.

I believe the new leadership should be able to unite the whole party. The new party president should discuss matters thoroughly with Secretary General [Hiroshi] Mitsuzuka.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] Generational change and realignment of factions are underway in the party.

[Koizumi] This is an irreversible trend. On the other hand, in single-seat district elections, there is no room for fighting among the old factions. The framework of factions is loosening up and becoming fluid.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] What will become of "Group Shinseki [New Century]"?

[Koizumi] We have entered a new stage. We were in disarray this time. While this does not mean a breakup; the positions of the group members differ on the presidential election. We will no longer be able to operate as we did in the past.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] What will the new party leadership have to work on first to prepare for the next general election?

[Koizumi] Policy. The greatest weakness of the Liberal Democratic Party is its inability to come up with policies that will make electoral victory a certainty. In terms of organizational matters, there is a need to promote more younger members. However, policies are more important.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] What is to be done about the framework of the coalition government?

[Koizumi] If I become president, I will come up with policies that are totally different from those the LDP has presented so far. The Social Democratic Party of Japan will certainly oppose them. In that case, it will be meaningless for us to work together.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] What will happen to the political situation after Prime Minister Murayama resigns?

[Koizumi] It will depend on whether Mr. Murayama lets the LDP choose the prime minister or asks us to support the leader of his new party.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] If he lets the LDP choose the prime minister?

[Koizumi] We will accept immediately, and there will be a dissolution of the Diet right away.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] What if you are asked to support the new party leader who replaces Mr. Murayama?

[Koizumi] I will say no. The Diet should be dissolved immediately.

[YOMIURI SHIMBUN] What do you think of the revision of the Religious Corporation Act?

[Koizumi] The forming of criminal groups behind the front of religious corporations should absolutely be stopped. Revisions from that standpoint should be undertaken.

LDP Presidential Campaign Maneuvers Reported

952B0234A Tokyo SANDE MAINICHI in Japanese 3 Sep 95 pp 34-37

[Article by Isami Hirono and Yoshimitsu Shirokura: "Majority-Obtaining Maneuvers in the Liberal Democratic Party Presidential Election; Shinshinto Also Is Making Behind-the-Scene Moves"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Prime Minister Murayama does not make any comment on China's nuclear test. Public awareness of his existence appears to have rapidly been dwindling since his "statement" on the anniversary of the war's end. Nagata-cho is in a state of truce, but speculation is whirling around in the background concerning the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] presidential election.**

The "election campaign, though not yet officially kicked off," has already started for the LDP presidential election scheduled for 22 September.

August 15th marked an epochal 50th anniversary of the war's end; but this day was also epochal in terms of its influence on future political developments.

On that night, an engineering and construction businessman in Shimane prefecture received the following message by phone: "I am sorry for calling in the midst of the Bon Festival season, but the party presidential election is near at hand finally. This is a crucial time for Mr. Takeshita, and so I need your effort and help."

The call was from a prefectural assemblyman connected with former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, and the caller was asking the businessman to make arrangements with party members in preparation for the LDP presidential election so that they deliver votes to Ryutaro Hashimoto, International Trade and Industry Minister .

Also, a tense mood was spreading in the prime minister's official residence on the morning of that day.

This was because a cabinet meeting decided on the prime minister's statement carrying the following historic perception for the first time regarding the former World War: "We, by colonial rule and aggression and through a mistaken national policy at one time in the past..."

This exceptional statement was a product of strenuous backstage negotiations with LDP cabinet members by Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka who acknowledged himself to be playing the role of a person who would "close Prime Minister Murayama's eyes on the death-bed of his cabinet."

Without referring to the content of the statement, Nosaka kept walking about with a humble bow, only saying: "We now have only the 15th of August when the prime minister can say his say boldly. I would like to put Murayama's feelings into it. Please give your support."

It is said that the cabinet members felt that: "Oh, the Murayama cabinet is now finally drawing its curtain." However, there was only one cabinet member who knew the content of the statement beforehand. That was Hashimoto, and not Murayama's sworn friend Foreign Minister Yohei Kono. As chairman of the Japan Association for the Bereaved Families of the War Dead, Hashimoto must differ from Murayama in the perception of the war; yet he was consulted and gave advice on matters related to the wording.

Former Obuchi Faction Being Self-Confident in Its Bid for "Hashimoto as Party President"

This very Hashimoto asked former Obuchi faction members to "wait until the anniversary of the war's end" when they pressed him to announce his candidacy promptly as a result of the party's decision to hold its presidential election one week earlier. Also, he visited Yasukuni Shrine this year. By this act, he exhibited a contrast with Kono who kept from visiting the shrine in consideration of international opinion.

In fact, on 16 August, Hashimoto began moving toward the party presidential election by making a courtesy visit to Obuchi, chairman of the former Obuchi faction, to express his desire to run.

Both Kono and Hashimoto have not formally made their candidacy announcements, but there is a strong probability that the party presidential election will unfold with these two as its pivotal figures.

In the initial stage, an understanding was reached through talks that Kono would become party president and Hashimoto its secretary general. However, this settlement was shattered by the LDP's poor showing in the Upper House election and Kono's coercive cabinet shake-up.

Through a sweeping reshuffle, Kono planned to resign as foreign minister, hand this post to Secretary General Yoshiro Mori, and pick Hiroshi Mitsuzuka to succeed Mori as secretary general. This was a strategy designed to attain Kono's reelection by winning the support of the largest former Mitsuzuka faction.

Mapping out this scheme was Shigeru Kasuya, a combative type of person rarely seen in the Miyazawa faction made up of gentle court nobles. He professed that "I am prepared to die together with Kono," when needed. He admonished Kono, who favored a settlement through talks that, "power is one that should be captured through a fight." He also got his close associate, Taro Asou, former deputy secretary general, and others to gather Diet members of middle standing in order to hold breakfast meetings frequently. Kono himself, also, visited the residence of Toshio Komoto, former Komoto faction chairman, on 7 August to ask for his help in the midst of a dispute over the reshuffle issue. Through these measures, he began to carry out "majority-obtaining maneuvers without regard for appearances."

In personnel changes involving parliamentary vice ministers as well, Kono made strategic moves, apparently in an undisguised manner, for his reelection. He distributed eight posts—half the total posts assigned to the LDP—to the former Mitsuzuka faction, in disregard of opposing intraparty views that "the summing-up of the Upper House election results has not yet been concluded," and that "such moves represent a revival of factions."

These moves enraged Obuchi who had not been consulted beforehand. They also caused a loss of face to Takeshita who had been opposed to the personnel shake-up.

Takeshita phoned Murayama in a telephone offensive against these moves. Former Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama, also, made a secret visit through a back gate to the official residence of Murayama, [an intimate friend and a one-time Diet colleague], on the early morning of 4 August when a summit meeting was held among the ruling three parties. Kajiyama conferred directly with Murayama, saying that "if you accept Kono's resignation as foreign minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto also will resign as international trade and industry minister." On the evening of the same day, Obuchi also drove into the official residence immediately before the second meeting of the three party leaders.

It is uncertain whether he was influenced by these acts, but Murayama stuck fast to his position to retain Kono as foreign minister.

On the morning of 7 August, the day before the cabinet reshuffle, Mori made the following remark to Murayama at the latter's official residence in an angry voice: "To whom is this cabinet indebted for its smooth business thus far? You are going to bind Kono hand and foot." However, it was too late then.

Former Home Minister Hiromu Nonaka, a member of the former Obuchi faction, stated in a positive tone: "There is a saying about a schemer being entrapped by his own trick, but when a person who is tactless from the outset attempts to play a trick, he will produce such a result as we now see. The cabinet reshuffle has been entwined with the party personnel shake-up, and a person who should take responsibility for the outcome of the Upper House election has entered the cabinet. In view of Prime Minister Murayama's past one-year endeavors, we do not know how to apologize to him for these things. We will stand opposed to those people who stain politics with individual and factional interests."

The former Obuchi faction stated: "When we fix our gaze on this situation, only Kono's ego stands out in our sight. The more he irratates others, the deeper he is digging his own grave. It would be proper for him to assume all responsibilities related to the Upper House election, etc. through the party presidential election."

The faction has been absolutely confident of its victory in the party presidential election. This is because it controls over 60 percent of prefectural party federations and a majority of large-scale organizations including general construction firms. Also, it has Hashimoto's popularity.

Also, the faction's corps of secretaries is wholly made up of strong warriors who, during the Kaku-Fuku war [the power struggle between Kakuei Tanaka and Takeo Fukuda], secretly obtained a list of party members and won them over to the Tanaka side one after another. Takeshita has already directed Kanezo Muraoka, his confidant, to take command.

In response to Hashimoto's visit to the Takeshita office on 9 August to transmit his desire to run, Kajiyama, Muraoka, and others gathered at the Lower House Diet members office building and finished a detailed analysis of the intraparty situation on 14 August.

The party presidential race is fought over about 480 votes which consist of 309 votes to be cast by members of the Lower and Upper Houses and about 170 votes from rank-and-file party members (10,000 ballots are counted as one vote). A former Obuchi faction member boasts: "Hashimoto can garner at least over 120 votes from rank-and-file party members, and as to votes of Diet members he is sure to win 220 votes including those from other faction members. Our concern is by how many votes we will win over Shinshinto [the New Frontier Party] in the next Lower House election."

Shinshinto is stepping up its precautions against such a development. It owes its great leap forward in the Upper House election to the collection of votes from local LDP supporters rallying around general construction firms in addition to a wholehearted support from Sokagakkai [a Buddhist group and a major support base for former Komeito (the Clean Government Party)]. When the former Obuchi faction tightens its control on local LDP votes, Shinshinto may easily be defeated in next Lower House election.

On 31 July, Shinshinto hastily dispatched Takeo Nishioka in charge of overall coordination to the LDP headquarters to sound out his old acquaintance Obuchi about the situation and analyze materials obtained from him.

A leading Shinshinto member who formerly belonged to the Obuchi faction says: "When Hashimoto emerges as new party president and Murayama surrenders his government, a rebellion may take place within the LDP when the election to nominate prime minister is held in the Diet. Expecting and hoping for such a split, some guys in our party are planning to collect LDP-supporting votes and deliver them to Hashimoto. The atmosphere within our party is now tingling with excitement."

Shinshinto will be unable to avoid a hard fight in the Lower House election when the LDP carries out the election with Hashimoto enjoying a high national popularity as its president. It will be so, especially when the LDP, freed of what is called the bondage of coalition with the SDPJ [Social Democratic Party of Japan], sallies out in a forceful manner. On 8 August, LDP Diet members discussed how to choose the party's new head at their regular plenary meeting which usually comes to a close without any opinions presented. This debate, also, represents an action performed with Hashimoto's moves in mind.

There is another reason why the Obuchi faction is so self-confident.

In the personnel shakeup, Kono won the former Mitsuzuka faction to his side, but antagonized the former Watanabe faction.

On 21 July, immediately before the day when the vote was cast in the Upper House election, Kajiyama secretly met with former Deputy Prime Minister Watanabe and suggested he be a candidate for finance minister, saying: "You should become a postwar version of Korekiyo Takahashi. Korekiyo left his name in history as finance minister rather than as prime minister." He promptly conducted behind-the-scene negotiations to this end. However, Kono made an approach to pro-Kono elements in the Watanabe faction such as Executive Council Chairman Kabun Muto. He expanded the cabinet framework by three more members and allowed only anti-Watanabe personnel to enter the cabinet, thereby incurring Watanabe's anger. Watanabe instructed Bunmei Ibuki and others to carry out a signature-collecting campaign for the more widely-based public party presidential election and leaned toward support for Hashimoto.

Also, this Watanabe move disrupted cross-factional YKK [an LDP trio forming the central force of Group Shinseiki with Y standing for Taku Yamasaki, K for Junichiro Koizumi, and the other K for Koichi Kato].

YKK initially encountered a voice—raised among members of Shinseiki under its control—saying that the trio "should put up its own candidate in the party presidential election;" but Koichi Kato, Policy Affairs Research Council chairman, the most essential figure of the three, did not make any responsive move; and Junichiro Koizumi, former Posts and Telecommunications minister, belonging to the former Mitsuzuka faction, expressed his support for Kono. Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Taku Yamasaki could not move an inch, dragged by Watanabe.

At one time, YKK faced constant allurements from both camps as disclosed by a young Shinseiki member who, describing his visit to the office of the Policy Affairs Research Council chairman, made the following remark: "There were incessant phone calls from both camps—so incessant that I could not have talks in a quiet, stable atmosphere."

This YKK has recently undergone much change and there is a rumor that it has concluded a secret agreement with Hashimoto to install Hashimoto as party president and Kato as secretary general.

Because of Secret Strife within the LDP, Fate of Murayama Government Will...

Kono's one more miscalculation would be his ouster of Nonaka and Transport Minister Shizuka Kamei from the cabinet. Also, because they were trusted by Murayama and expected to retain their posts for certain, the two reacted strongly against Kono who excessively played up the card of ministerial posts for his reelection. On 10 August, two days after the cabinet reshuffle, the two immediately contacted leading members of the former Miyazawa faction's anti-Kono group, such as Katsuhiko Shirakawa, and began talks on forming a cross-factional forum for supporting Hashimoto. Also, Kajiyama had already met Diet members of this anti-Kono group, saying that "Ryutaro Hashimoto is sure to win when the party presidential election is held." He had advised them to join the winning group.

The 11 members of this group announced the opening of the "Forum of Studying a New Party President," setting forth their line of supporting Hashimoto on 15 August at a hotel in Tokyo. Also, Shirakawa and Makoto Koga, who participated in this group from the former Miyazawa faction, belong to the Kato group. The number of the forum's members is likely to increase to over 30.

Kasuya pins hope on Miyazawa, saying that "as to Kochikai [former Miyazawa faction] Mr. Miyazawa will finally arrange a unified position within the faction so as to back up Kono." However, on 7 August, when former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa asked Yukihiko Ikeda, former Defense Agency director general, to work out a unified position for the support of Kono, Ikeda rejected the request, saying: "It is not understandable that the author of the plan to dissolve factions is seeking the support of a former faction in the party presidential election."

The personnel shake-up revived former factions moving toward the center; but the shake-up gave young members an excuse for taking independent action in a contrary development.

Both camps are already pushing ahead with majority-obtaining maneuvers involving local party members, and the schematic pattern of these maneuvers is an exact reproduction of the way the LDP party presidential election was carried out under the 55 system [two-big party system realized in 1955 with the formation of the LDP and with the unity of the Japan Socialist Party now called the SDPJ]. One may very well say that "those guys never learn a lesson."

At any rate, there is no doubt that the future course of this secret strife within the LDP will largely sway the fate of the Murayama government. The deadline for the government's answer to Sakigake [Harbinger's] four-item proposal including an amendment to the Cabinet Act is the end of September. Sakigake's secession from the government is a possibility, depending on the result of the LDP presidential election, etc. In such a case, what steps will the SDPJ, and also Prime Minister Murayama take?

Nosaka says: "There still will be Act 2 and Act 3."

However, the important point is how the people will view such "family circumstances" of the respective parties.

Ryutaro Hashimoto's 'Secrets' Viewed

952B0240A Tokyo SANDE MAINICHI in Japanese 17 Sep 95 pp 35-38

[Article by Yutaka Wakabayashi]

[FBIS Translated Text] **This is about Ryutaro Hashimoto. Being in a position that is the shortest route to the new presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and post-Murayama regime, Minister of International Trade and Industry Ryutaro Hashimoto is the politician attracting the most attention. With opinion divided in praise and censure of him even within the party, he is a unique character without precedent. Now for the true image of him....**

Like "Preschool"?

At any rate, if criticized, he talks back. Hashimoto, like the typical defiant player, also was the classic naive "boy" legislator at first.

Heir to his father, the deceased Ryugo, he first won in the 1963 general election. At that time, being the kin of Ryugo who served as minister of health and welfare, he paid a courtesy call to the Ministry of Health and Welfare press club, but was accompanied by his mother! He was teased that it was "the entrance ceremony to preschool." He was 26 at the time.

Naturally, Hashimoto was not aiming at "patrimony" from the outset like second-generation legislators today. When Ryugo died of cancer in 1962, he was a white collar worker who had graduated from Keio University and was working at Kureha Spinning (at the time).

"It seems that Ryugo really wanted his second son Daijiro (governor of Kochi Prefecture) to succeed him as a politician" (according to a senior legislator), but Daijiro was only 15 at the time. There once was a suggestion that his wife Masa to be the intermediary successor. Former prime minister Eisaku Sato (deceased), who was a sworn friend of Ryugo, also vacillated in choosing between the two, but ultimately Ryutaro was chosen (according to a former political desk reporter), and that was the circumstances of his entering the world of politics.

Zoku Legislator

It is the politician-bureaucrat-businessman triangle that has become the source of political corruption. While experiencing the stigma of "zoku legislators" who are the "evil symbol" of that, Hashimoto colly unholded "his pet theory for some time."

"Zoku legislators themselves are not bad. They learn by confronting bureaucrats and what is wrong with that? There must not be entanglement with vested interests, but criticizing them in general is wrong."

Hashimoto is the boss of the health and welfare zoku with the charter from scholars who say, "He is the elite model of a zoku legislator" (Takashi Inokuchi, Tokyo University professor). Hashimoto, who with minister of health and welfare as his final post, has held all the party, Diet, and government posts related to health and welfare. Another name for him is "one of the four devas of the social [welfare ?] and labor zoku." It is a "zoku" with the rare, but splendid ? "two-generation father-son health and welfare zoku boss" lineage of him along with his father Ryugo who was minister of health and welfare.

Relationship With Ichiro Ozawa

Hashimoto has had two chances in the past for the seat of prime minister. The first was in 1989. He was the candidate to succeed former prime minister Sosuke Uno who resigned due to a woman scandal. It was crushed, however, by Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of Shinshinto, and Keiwa Okuda, acting secretary general of Shinshinto, who were in the same Takeshita faction. The reason for relinquishing was a "woman problem," but essentially it was a "crush Hashimoto" in a form close to an inquisition. It was the outbreak of the "Ichi-Ryu [Ozawa-Hashimoto] war."

On the occasion of the Hata cabinet resignation in 1994, however, Hashimoto was secretly sounded out by Ozawa as a prime minister candidate. It was the beginning of a "conservative-conservative alliance." Although they were supposed to be hostile, somehow an atmosphere of "neither too close nor too far away" wafted.

The party prime minister candidate of the conservative-conservative alliance which acting secretary general of Shinshinto Kozo Watanabe is spreading profusely is clearly Hashimoto. Hashimoto feigned "ignorance" more than called for to Watanabe who was eagerly urging him during the time of the upper house election "because he was strongly warned from former Home Affairs Minister Hiromu Nonaka, a die-hard anti-Ozawa (according to political desk reporter).

Former Komeito Chairman Junya Yano goes so far as to warn that "expectations of a conservative-conservative alliance with the former Keiseikai [Takeshita faction] legislators of Shinshinto without Ozawa are appearing. If that happens, there is a possibility of returning to Keiseikai controlled politics."

As if reading their minds, Ozawa said, "We were once in the same group and I think that he is a very fine senior to me." Blood is [thicker] than water.... Are they really enemies or allies?

Orthodox Hawk Faction

He is the champion of the commonly acknowledged hawk faction. He is thoroughly a hawk with an appreciation of war, official visits to Yasukuni Shrine, promotion of PKF [peacekeeping forces] participation, and revision of the Constitution. However, perhaps conscious of the [LDP] presidential election, lately he has been zealously "retracting his claws."

Talk has been leaked frequently by Hashimoto's associates that "the words 'defeat in the war' in Prime Minister Murayama's conversation 50 years after the war were on the advice of Hashimoto," or "The Association of Bereaved Families of the War Dead" (Hashimoto, chairman) has conveyed that it is not opposed to the final stage with a Diet resolution 50 years after the war."

It is as if they want to say, "Hashimoto is an anti-war pacifist and a hawk that protects the doves" (associate), but somehow it smacks of "sophism."

For example, in "Have spirit! Japan's 'Declaration To Restore Self-Confidence'," the policy vision prepared by Hashimoto, he has an aggressive stance on the issue of becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It seems to conflict with the LDP-Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ)-Sakigake three-party agreement of "cautious handling." On the 15 August visit to Yasukuni Shrine this year, he has asserted, "I do not think of it as a personal matter."

Secretary General Yukio Hatoyama of Sakigake points out that "There is nationalism or a strong nationalistic tone in recent LDP words and actions. If Hashimoto becomes the new president, I think that trend will become stronger." There is also concern that being one of the few policy experts even bureaucrats marvel at, there are expectations, but if he begins to run recklessly, nobody will be able to stop him" (according to a leading LDP official).

For "Strength"? "Orphan of Political World"

Strength

Perhaps because sensational words and actions as his creed, contrary to the popularity of "Mr. Ryu" among the people, the criticism by industry insiders and associates is very bad. "He is a lone-wolf" (which is the good side). "He keeps people at arm's length." "He treats people with contempt." "He shouts, pouts, and gets angry." "He is self-conceited."

However, these seem to be backed by Hashimoto-style "strength."

First, there are his sentiments when he joined his first cabinet (minister of health and welfare, Ohira cabinet) at the age of 41 in 1978. (In this regard, he became the topic of conversation at the time by being the first cabinet member born in a double digit Showa era).

"Since I had wanted to become a minister in my 30's, I am two years behind schedule."

He really is undiplomatic. Hashimoto is a famous "old man killer" in the political world....

"Old man killer? Young woman killer would be better."

"At any rate, there probably are no one who say they enjoyed or happy after meeting Hashimoto. Of course, they give him credit for his brain..." (economics desk reporter).

It seems that "he does not cling to a position" is also his "strength." His associates say it was the same when he resigned as minister of finance due to the financial scandal in 1991 and when he resigned promptly as secretary general of the LDP, taking responsibility for the big defeat in the upper house election in 1989.

And, the "strength" in this [LDP] presidential election is in his "drawing a sharp distinction between public duty and political duty." He visited Indonesia and the Philippines right in the midst of the whirlpool of speculation on the presidential election. When questioned by the press corps, he replied colly that "Going to other countries is service to the nation. I just perform my duties." A large number of reporters had traveled with him only for one purpose—just to ask him his mind.

In a sense, he is honest, but one wonders if it is also strength to speak about delicate matters unconcernedly.

Regarding the visit to Yasukuni Shrine with the title of minister of international trade and industry, he said, "I always make visits to the shrine with a title on each occasion, but it is unpopular."

At a press conference when he was appointed secretary general in 1989, he abruptly said, "I, myself, have had party tickets bought by Recruit and have received election funds."

Watanabe has summed this all up by naming him "the orphan of the political world," but the Washington Post of the United States says he is a "venomous-tongued negotiator."

Fund-Raising Capability

Politicians are concerned about money. So, we have looked into Hashimoto's pockets....

According to Cabinet member asset disclosures (August 1994 disclosure), the assets which Hashimoto holds (including under the family name) such as land and stocks, bank accounts, and golf membership rights, total about 120 million yen at listed prices. It is about 450 million yen when convert land, etc., into market prices.

Next is income. Naturally, this is the "official" portion disclosed by the Diet legislator income disclosure system, and in the disclosure on 3 July, his total income for 1994 was 31,430,000 yen. It is just a little less than 2 million yen more than average amount, and among the Diet legislators, he is not in the category of high income earners.

Now on the most important political funds, at present, Hashimoto is an excellent fund raiser and ranks at the top among politicians. In the political funds revenue and expenditure report last year (1993 portion), he had collected 640 million yen. Of course, he overwhelming outdistances the others. He has a great lead over second place and below and he demonstrates most satisfactorily the manner of the real power ? of an elite "zoku legislator."

Regent Style From University Days

Interests

Only his hard aspects are conspicuous as a politician, but aside from that, one of the "selling points" of Hashimoto certainly is his Keio student type softness.

His interest has been mountain climbing since the Azabu High School Mountaineering Club. However, this goes beyond the bounds of a hobby. In 1973, he took the command of the 2d RCC (Rock Climbing Club) Everest Mountain Climbing Team and became also a member of the Japan Mountain Climbing Association. He has also the title of honorary member of the Nepal Mountain Climbing Association. He has outshined pros serving as commander of the Japan Kanchenjunga Mountain Climbing Team and as honorary head of the three-nation Japan, China, and Nepal Chomoranma (Everest) Mountain Climbing Team.

He was in the Kendo [fencing] Club in his Keio University days. He is uncommonly modest saying, "I am not that strong," but he has the skill of a 5th grade swordsman. At the end of June, in the final negotiations of the Japan-U.S. auto negotiations in Geneva, U.S. Trade Representative Kantor, who is the counterpart of Hashimoto, presented him with a bamboo sword because he knew of this.

That bamboo sword was in return for a snapshot given to Kantor. The camera is another of Hashimoto's interests. According to Hashimoto, he had made into quarters one taken of Kantor and others at the quadrilateral trade talks in Canada at the beginning of May and presented it to him at the OECD ministerial council meeting at the end of the same month.

It sounds like a "good story," but what comes next is Hashimoto-style. That is because when he handed the snapshot over to Kantor, he added, "This is not Kodak. This is Fuji."

Scandal

It is natural speaking of his soft side, but there have been many rumors of woman scandals. As touched earlier, the cause of his relinquishing the presidential race in 1989 was because of grilling by Ozawa and others on women problems. In a chat with a reporter at the time when he abandoned the race, Hashimoto went so far as to say, "When women problems have appeared (about me in weekly magazines), I thought of running for the race to get back at them. I have had several love affairs in the past, but...." This time also, a woman problem has been taken up already by some of the media.

His trademark regent style is from his university days. It seems that it is haircreme now, not "pomade" a repugnant synonym, but he has been chosen in the illustrious best ten of "celebrities with smart hair styles" by wig makers.

He won the best dresser prize of the Japan Men's Fashion Association in 1990. At that time too, his tongue on accepting the price was not gentle, "I should have received it 20 years ago since I have dressed the same for 20 years."

It does not matter if he is the LDP's Ryotaro Sugi or Mr. Ryu, but what reflection will such a character cast on politics? It is of great concern to the people in so far he is in the position with the closest route to the seat of supreme power...

"Data on Me" Revealed By Ryutaro Hashimoto Himself

Height: 165 cm
Weight: 68 kg
Blood type: AB(RH+)
White shirts: many button-down type
Interests: 1. Kendo — since first year at Keio University 2. Mountain climbing — since first year of high school 3. Camera, photography — over 30 years 4. Reading — desultory reading category in quantity. The "Diary of Prince Takamatsu" which he recently read has become a lesson.
Desk motto: "You should not forget your original aim."
Shopping: Often goes to book stores and camera stores. If there is a book that he wants, he always buys it. The amount he pays is considerable every month. When a good camera comes out, he buys it, but he has not purchased a new one in the past two years.
Shoe size: 24.5 cm, no brand orientation
Pants pockets: Condo keys, etc. Regarding if this was all he put in his pockets, "Whatever I would regret not having near at hand."
Jacket pockets: Glasses, notebook, Cabinet telephone book, business card holder, comb, cigarettes, lighter, pipe, wallet. "The contents change tremendously. Quite often I receive television appearance fees, lecture fees, and manuscript fees to put in it, but sometimes there is only 20,000 or 30,000 yen in it.
Fashion: He likes informal wear best. He selects the suits to buy himself and wears them as he pleases. Many are navy or dark gray in color. In response to the question, "You have good taste, don't you," he says, "That's not true, but I come from a spinning company (Kureha Spinning at the time)."

North Korea

ROK 'Bandits' Said To Bring Weapons to DMZ

SK2109060395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets on Tuesday [19 September] brought hundreds of Army bandits fully armed with machine guns and automatic rifles into places within the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] of the Military Demarcation Line in the western, central and eastern sectors of the front, inciting war hysterics, military sources said.

Meanwhile, they introduced a 90 mm recoilless gun at an MP [military police] post in the DMZ in the central sector of the front and took a firing posture towards civil policemen of our side for hours.

South Students Protest Kwangju 'Murderers'

SK2009113895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 20 Sep 95

["Vigorous Struggle for Punishment of Kwangju Murderers Launched in S. Korea" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 20 (KCNA) — The struggle for punishment of those criminals who brutally murdered citizens in Kwangju popular uprising in May 1980, is growing in South Korea, according to a radio report from Seoul.

Over 200 students of Korea University on Monday held a rally and staged a hunger sit-in in demand of the enactment of a special law for the punishment of the murderers.

The South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongyon) announced that more than 100,000 students throughout South Korea have participated in the signature campaign demanding the enactment of a special law. Students declared that they would stage a school strike and hold a mass rally urging the enactment on September 29 and 30.

At present students of 30-odd universities across South Korea are going on a sit-in, it said.

The Catholic Kwangju Archdiocese Commission for Justice and Peace and the "National Catholic Priests' Association for Justice" called a press conference in Seoul on Monday, at which they declared that they gathered signatures from over 120,000 people after launching the signature campaign demanding the enactment of a special law and the introduction of a special prosecution system.

The May 18 People's Committee consisting of 60-odd civic and public organizations launched a signature campaign involving one million people for the enactment of the special law, while some 5,130 teachers of 88 universities throughout South Korea made public a statement urging the enactment of this law.

SNU Students Hold Rally

SK2109070195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA) — An estimated 1,000 students of Seoul National University [SNU] in South Korea held a rally on Tuesday at which they urged the puppet clique to institute a special law and introduce a special prosecution system for the punishment of those responsible for the Kwangju massacre, according to a radio report from Seoul.

They denounced the prosecution's decision not to bring the chief culprits to trial as a treacherous act of giving a way out to those killers, and contended that they should face a judgement by the people.

After the rally the students took to streets and staged a demonstration, scattering leaflets.

Papers Comment on Kwangju Case

SK2109053695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 21 Sep 95

["Traitors Must Be Removed Before Anyone Else" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA) — It is only too natural that South Korean students and people are fiercely struggling to have Chon Tu-hwan, No Tae-u and others responsible for the Kwangju bloodbath in May 1980 brought to trial, say papers here today.

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN says the South Korean people have a deep-rooted rancour against the Chon-No fascist clique, which killed thousands of patriotic-minded people in Kwangju in cold blood when they were calling for democracy and turned the city into a sea of blood by mobilizing Armed Forces under the behind-the-scene manipulation of the United States.

If the truth behind the Kwangju massacre is failed to be made clear and the murderers are left unpunished, another slaughter of fellow countrymen may be seen again in South Korea and society can never be democratized.

For this reason, the South Korean people must not pardon the Kim Yong-sam group, which are defending the architects of the Kwangju bloodbath.

For a proper settlement of the Kwangju incident and democratic development of South Korean society, the Kim Yong-sam group of traitors defending the murderers must be removed before anyone else.

In a commentary MINJU CHOSON says the Kim Yong-sam "civilian" fascist clique must accept the unanimous demand of the people for the punishment of the murderers and step down from power.

South Rejects 'Sick Bail' for Pak Yong-kil

SK2009112895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 20 (KCNA) — The fascist clique dismissed requested sick bail for Pak Yong-kil on Monday, who has been detained under the "National Security Law" for the mere reason that she visted the northern half of the country, according to a radio report from Seoul.

Pak Yong-kil is now suffering from a serious illness which may cause a heart failure. She must be released for an urgent medical treatment.

Nevrtheless, the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique rejected her bail only to reveal their anti-social, anti-reunification and antiethical nature.

Foreign Officials Send Condolences on Flooding

Egyptian, Algerian Presidents

SK2109050595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0428 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA) — Messages of sympathy to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were sent by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Algerian President Liamine Zeroual in connection with the flood damages in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Egyptian president said in the message that he was distressed to hear the news that some areas of friendly Korea suffered a great material loss from flood and he expressed sincere consolation with His Excellency Kim Chong-il and hoped the Korean people would remove all the damages.

The Algerian president expressed deepest consolation and wholehearted sympathy with Comrade Kim Chong-il and with the friendly Korean people and the families of the victims.

Li Peng, Vo Van Kiet, Others

SK2109055795 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0433 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA) — Premier of the Administration Council Kang Song-san received messages of sympathy from foreign heads of government in connection with big flood damages in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Among them are Premier of the State Council of China Li Peng, Prime Minister of the Government of Vietnam Vo Van Kiet, Premier of the Government of Laos Khamtai Siphandon, Prime Minister of Romania Nicolae Vacaroiu, Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Bulgaria Jean Videnov and Prime Minister of Yugoslavia Radoje Kontic.

Messages expressed the belief that the Korean people will remove the aftermath of the damages at an early date and lead a stable life under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government.

Meanwhile, Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam received a message of sympathy from Foreign Minister of Cuba Roberto Robaina Gonzalez.

Incident of 1875 Japanese 'Aggression' Recounted

SK2009115795 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1015 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 20 (KCNA) — 120 years have elapsed since the "Unyo-go" incident, but the Japanese reactionaries have not yet abandoned their aggressive design, and are maneuvering to stage comeback to Korea.

Papers here say this in articles today.

In September 1875 the Japanese militarists rigged up "Unyo-go" incident, premeditated, brigandish provocation, in an attempt to invent a pretext to invade Korea.

Dr. Kang Sok-gui in an article contributed to NODONG SINMUN cited irrefutable facts to roundly reveal that the incident was not an accident, but a prelude to the Japanese militarists' invasion of Korea and a premeditated, brigandish one.

According to him, the Japanese warship "Unyo-go" anchored at Pusan on April 21, 1875. The ship was engaged in survey and military espionage on the Korean seashores and at the Kumya Bay (the then Yonghung Bay), one of main military vantage-points, under the pretext of what they called "military maneuvers."

The Korean side took no countermeasures against the high-handed acts of the Japanese militarists. Then, their acts became more wanton and arrogant.

On September 20 the warship made its appearance in the sea off Kanghwa Island, the mission of which was espionage and provocation against the fortresses of Korea. When it failed to realise its purpose owing to the stubborn resistance of the Korean gunners, it made a surprise attack on peaceful residential quarters which had no defence facilities and killed innocent people and destroyed and burnt dwelling houses.

The author of the article warns that if the Japanese reactionaries dare invade Korea again as they did in the past, they will face destruction. MINJU CHOSON in a signed article says that the incident was a premeditated armed provocation aimed at inventing a pretext for full-fledged aggression on Korea and it was the prelude to brigandish aggression on Korea.

Japanese Daily Called South's 'Waiting Maid'

SK2109073195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 21 Sep 95

["Hack Writers Will Pay Dearly for Their Crimes" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA) — The Japanese SANKEI SHIMBUN September 7 carried a false report of the South Korean CHUNGANG ILBO that North Korea "expressed the willingness to participate in Atlanta Olympiad slated for 1996 and called upon Koreans in the U.S. to donate money".

The DPRK cannot but make clear its position because the SANKEI SHIMBUN is misleading public opinion with a lie, deception, reversed outlook on value and logic reversing black and white and going against justice and truth.

When the paper on the payroll of the "Agency for National Security Planning" [ANSP] of South Korea described a report on the DPRK's flood damages as exaggerated, reversing black and white, the DPRK warned that if the paper joins the anti-DPRK campaign of the South Korean puppets, it will disgrace itself.

Joining in a new round of anti-DPRK campaign of the South Korean puppets the hack writers of the SANKEI SHIMBUN tarnished the image of Japan's news media and roundly revealed that they are a group of venal writers on the payroll of the puppet "ANSP."

The SANKEI SHIMBUN's report full of distorted facts and lies does not deserve even a passing note.

What is new in its slander against the DPRK is its method to make the hollow propaganda sound real. The Japanese JIJI press carried a report of the South Korean CHUNGANG ILBO quoting accounts of "a high-ranking official" of the puppet "Foreign Ministry" and then the SANKEI SHIMBUN was quick to reprint the report.

The hack writers of the SANKEI SHIMBUN were again branded as political waiting maid of the South Korean "ANSP."

The paper is a phoney one, which cannot be called a paper, a mouthpiece and propagandist of public opinion, any longer.

From the historic point of view the SANKEI SHIMBUN has been a political waiting maid of the South Korean "ANSP" and it has been engaged in slander and false propaganda against the DPRK. Its current lie proved that the SANKEI SHIMBUN is a phoney paper.

The SANKEI SHIMBUN continues playing the role of a "shock brigade" of the South Korean "ANSP," disgracing itself as a false propaganda machine. It is because the paper is bribed by the "ANSP."

Since reporters of the SANKEI SHIMBUN have been engaged in false propaganda, deception, smear campaign and slander, they have been reduced to a group of hack writers who have no ability to tell right from wrong and look squarely at the realities.

This is vividly proved by the fact that they let out a string of rubbish, saying that North Korea said that "if it demonstrates its existence at the Atlanta Olympiad in the United States, it would be a great benefit to Koreans in the United States".

The DPRK and the U.S. are making efforts to set up liaison offices and the DPRK has its mission to the United Nations in the land of the U.S. and has conducted its activities with pride and the United States is supplying the DPRK with heavy oil. It must be difficult for hack writers of the SANKEI SHIMBUN to understand the fact.

The hack writers of the SANKEI SHIMBUN showed again that they have no ability to look squarely at the realities—an increasing number of U.S.-resident Koreans visit the DPRK and U.S.-resident Koreans, who were engaged in anti-communism, at important posts of South Korean political circles and the military, call the DPRK "embrace of a genuine motherland" and visit it.

Conspiracy with the South Korean puppets made them blind and stupid.

The SANKEI SHIMBUN which is not a small paper of Japan should not dance to the tune of the puppets, but act with discretion.

If the paper persistently serves the "ANSP" of South Korea as its waiting maid, ignoring the repeated warnings of the DPRK, it will pay dearly for its crimes.

Delegations From PRC Arrive in Pyongyang

Military, Meteorological Groups

SK2109031795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2211 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 20 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Meteorological Administration of China led by its Deputy Administrator Ma Henian and a friendly visiting group of the Chinese People's Liberation Army led by Lieutenant General Zhang Gong, political commissar of the Academy of Military Sciense, arrived in Pyongyang today.

XINHUA Delegation

SK2109033395 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2217 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 20 (KCNA) — A delegation of the XINHUA News Agency of China led by its Vice-President Nan Zhengzhong arrived in Pyongyang today.

The delegation was greeted at the airport by Pak Hyon-kyu, deputy general director of the KCNA, and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Qiao Zonghuai.

Choe Tae-pok Meets QIUSHI Delegation

SK2009050095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0432 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 20 (KCNA) — Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, on Tuesday met and had a friendly talk with a delegation of QIUSHI, the political and theoretical organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, led by its Deputy General Editor Ma Yingbai.

Ma said on the occasion that the delegation saw the Korean people were defending their own socialism provided by the great leader President Kim Il-song, closely rallied around Comrade Kim Chong-il, holding higher the red flag.

The Sino-Korean friendship is the fraternal friendship sealed in blood, he noted, saying: We will make efforts to further develop it.

Hwang Chang-yop Meets PRC, Japanese Groups

SK2109103695 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1019 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA) — Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a friendly talk with the visiting delegation of the Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China led by Meng Qingxiang, member of the standing committee and director of the organisational department of the Heilongjiang provincial party committee, and the delegation of the Japan-Korea Cultural Interchange Association led by its Chief Director Ryoso Hayashi.

Meng Qingxiang, the head of the delegation, said that the party and the people are united firmly, the party loves the people and the people follow the party.

He said that the Sino-Korean friendship is unbreakable as it is sealed in blood and hoped that Korea will become more prosperous.

Russian Trade Union Delegation Departs

SK1909011895 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1300 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Independent Trade Unions of Russia led by Secretary Frolova left for home by air on 16 September. Yi Chin-su, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, saw the delegation off at the airport.

Kim Pyong-il Resumes Post at Helsinki Embassy

95P30161A Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 29 Aug 95 p 7

[Unattributed Report: "Ambassador Kim Pyong-il Handling His Post Silently"]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korean Ambassador Kim Pyong-il has taken up his post in Helsinki. After his return from his homeland, his first undertaking was a visit on Monday to Jyvaskyla, where he participated in the opening of the North Korean Exhibit together with Province Governor Kalevi Kivisto.

Kim Pyong-il's movements are followed worldwide because he is the son of former North Korean leader Kim Il-song, and because his stepbrother, Kim Chong-il, is the latter's successor.

North Korea's parliament has not officially named Kim Chong-il president, although a year has passed since the death of Kim Il-song. The change of power has not occurred as smoothly as it was expected. The reason is thought to be a power struggle, on one side of which the ambassador's name has been mentioned. North Korean Workers' Party (KWP) made Kim Chong-il a representative of the president as early as eight years ago.

Apparently, it was precisely because of this power struggle that Ambassador Kim Pyong-il did not want to grant an interview, asserting that this was still not possible.

The North Korean Exhibition was brought from Pyongyang to Jyvaskyla in honor of the Finland-North Korea Friendship Society's 25th anniversary celebration. The exhibition features rural handicrafts, photos, and books written by North Korean leaders. The friendship society has some 450 members around the country, and local chapter offices in Helsinki, Turku, Pori, Tampere, and Seinajoki.

A Solidarity Committee for Uniting the Koreas is active in [the Finnish] Parliament.

Malaysian Military Delegation Meets KPA Group

SK2009152895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 20 (KCNA) — Military delegation of the DPRK had talks with the military delegation of Malaysian in Pyongyang today.

Present there on the DPRK side were Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, and other officials concerned, and on the opposite side were members of the Malaysian military delegation led by General Tansri Datuk Ismail Bin Haji Omar, chief of defense forces.

At the talks, both sides informed each other of the military and political situation of their countries and discussed further developing the friendly relations between armies of the two countries.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Choe Kwang met and had a friendly talk with the delegation on the day.

Visits Kumsusan Palace

SK2109064495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA) — A military delegation of Malaysia led by General Tansri Datuk Ismail Bin Haji Omar, chief of Defence Forces, on Wednesday visited Kumsusan Memorial Palace, in which the great leader President Kim Il-song is preserved in state.

The delegation was accompanied by Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army.

The visitors expressed reverence before the statue of President Kim Il-song and made bows to the president, who is preserved in state.

The head of the delegation wrote in the visitor's book:

We visited this place with deep reverence and paid homage to the great leader President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

We think that his excellency the president, who is preserved in state, gives strength and courage to the Korean people.

We sincerely hope for the prosperity of Korea.

Kang Song-san Sends Note to Papua New Guinean

SK1509053095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 15 (KCNA) — The premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kang Song-san, sent a message to the prime minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Julius Chan, congratulating him on the 20th independence day of the country.

The message expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries will develop favorably in the future and wished him greater success in his work for a durable peace and stability of the country.

Bangladeshi Leaders Receive WPK Delegation

SK1909011695 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hansanul Haq Inu, general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the National Socialist Party of Bangladesh, and (Haleq Saman Huian), chairman of the Central Committee of the Bangladesh Socialist Party, each received a Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation led by Kim Yang-kon, deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, on 11 September.

On each of the occasions, the head of the WPK delegation extended the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's greetings to the leader of each party. The party leaders expressed their deep appreciation for this and asked the head of the delegation to extend their sincere greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the National Socialist Party of Bangladesh stressed that the DPRK's socialist cause would be victorious without fail because the DPRK was holding high the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who inherited the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's cause. He pointed out that the National Socialist Party of Bangladesh would positively launch a solidarity movement in support of the socialist cause of the WPK and the DPRK people and their cause of the fatherland's reunification.

The chairman of the Central Committee of the Bangladesh Socialist Party wished the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il greater successes in his valuable work to brilliantly implement the chuche idea.

Vice Minister Departs for India, Pakistan

SK2009000395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1531 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 19 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Association of Researchers in Social Sciences of Thailand led by its Chairman Rachaniwan Vechaphurt, a delegation of the Japan-Korea Cultural Interchange Association led by its Chief Director Ryoso Hayashi, and a delegation of the Japan Teachers' Union led by its Vice-President Hiroshi Morioka arrived here today by air.

A delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK headed by Vice-Minister Choe U-chin left here today for a visit to Pakistan and India.

Cuban Delegation Meets With Hwang Chang-yop

SK2109023695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2216 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 20 (KCNA) — Talks were held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today between the delegations of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK and the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba.

Present at the talks on the Korean side were Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee [C.C.] and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA, and officials concerned and on the opposite side were the members of the Cuban delegation led by Jorge Lezcano Perez [name as received], Politburo member of the C.C., the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the People's Power, and Cuban Ambassador to Korea Jose Ramon Rodriguez Varona.

At the talks, the two sides exchanged views on developing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties, two countries, two peoples and two national assemblies and some matters of mutual concern.

Visits Kumsusan, Mansu Hill

SK2109063095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA) — A delegation of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba led by Jorge Lezcano Perez, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, visited Kumsusan Memorial Palace, in which the great leader President Kim Il-song is preserved in state, on Wednesday to pay homage to him.

The members of the delegation expressed reverence before the statue of President Kim Il-song and made deep bows to the president, who is preserved in state.

Jorge Lezcano Perez noted that the Cuban people deeply revered and respected the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. "Though he passed away his great revolutionary idea is immortal," he said.

"We sincerely hope that the Korean people under the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il will defend the idea of Comrade Kim Il-song and make a greater success in the efforts to achieve the reunification of the country," he said.

On the same day, the delegation laid a floral basket and made a bow before the statue of President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill.

German Parliamentary Delegation Departs

SK1609135395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1104 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — The delegation of Christian Social Union members of the Federal Parliament of Germany led by Christian Schmidt, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Federal Parliament of Germany and chairman of the Foreign and Defence Policy Committee of the Parliamentary group of the Christian Social Union, left here for home today by air after its five-day visit to Korea.

During its stay in Korea the delegation visited Mangyongdae, the Tower of the Chuche Idea, the Grand People's Study House, Panmunjom and other places and saw the concrete wall built by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line.

Organs To Relay Loyalty Letter to Kim Chong-il

SK1609053595 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Meetings have been held to mark the start of the carriage by relay groups of functionaries of Administration Council committees and departments and central organs, as well as people of Kangwon Province, of letters of loyalty addressed to the great leader Comrade [yongdoja] Kim Chong-il on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the glorious Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

A meeting was held at the Mangyongdae revolutionary site to send off the loyalty letter-carrying relay group of functionaries of Administration Council committees and departments and central organs.

Read at the meeting was a letter of loyalty containing the firm will and faith and ardent resolution to bear deep in mind the great leader's [suryongnim] immortal achievements embroidered in the long course of creating and constantly strengthening and developing our party, to completely implement the fatherly leader's behest under the party's leadership, and to uphold the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il until the end of the world.

Next, those who are responsible for the relay group and have been assigned to courteously carry the letter containing the unanimous loyalty of functionaries of Administration Council committees and departments and central organs expressed their resolve.

The relay group carrying the letter of loyalty started off, and was warmly sent off by the masses. The members of the loyalty letter-carrying relay group of functionaries of Administration Council committees and departments and central organs are filled with the resolution to strengthen the might of our party and consummate the chuche revolutionary cause, with the great dignity and pride of having defended and developed socialism of our own style under the party's leadership on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the glorious WPK created by the great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song that is being led by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

North Hwanghae Relays Letter

SK2009123595 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the 50th anniversary of the founding of the glorious Workers Party of Korea, a meeting has been held to mark the start of relays by the relay group carrying a letter of loyalty addressed from the people living in North Hwanghae Province to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Read at the meeting amid enthusiastic applause was a letter of loyalty containing the burning pledge of the people of North Hwanghae Province to complete the chuche revolutionary cause to the end with the endless honor of having the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il at the head of our party and the revolution, and with boundless feelings of deep reverence for the great leader [suryong].

Following this, the members of the loyalty letter-carrying relay group, who are assigned to courteously carry the letter, started off to Pyongyang and were warmly sent off by the working people at various levels, youth, and schoolchildren.

Editorial Hails Kim Chong-il's Achievements

952C0172A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 19 Jun 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Continually Add Luster to the Leadership Achievements of the Great Comrade Kim Chong-il"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was 31 years ago today that the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il assumed his duties at the party Central Committee.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il—who early on embarked upon the road of revolution with a grand desire to carry the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song through to completion—began to lead the chuche-based party building cause on the road of victory at the 19 June 1964 meeting of the party Central Committee. This marked a great historic event in the struggle of our people to chart their own destiny.

With the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il beginning to lead party work, there was a revolutionary turnaround in the party building efforts and activities of our party, ushering in a new glorious era in the Korean revolution.

All our people, who suddenly lost the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song last year, now feel all the more keenly in the innermost corners of their hearts how lucky they have been to be making revolution from early on under the very great leader [yongdoja] who will brilliantly carry on the deceased leader's cause.

The granite faith and unflinching determination of all our working class and people is to carry the revolutionary cause of chuche through to completion, whatever formidable storm may come, by upholding the last teachings of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and rallying closely around the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il.

On the occasion of significantly marking the 31st anniversary of the beginning of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's work at the party Central Committee, our people are wrapped in an infinite sense of glory and happiness in having the peerless great man, the great leader [yongdoja], at the head of the party and revolution as they reminisce with emotion about the rewarding days in which they brought about epoch-making changes in all aspects of the revolution and construction under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Cherishing deep in our hearts the immense glory of enjoying a succession of great leaders from generation to generation, we must be infinitely loyal to the ideology and leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il and continually glorify his immortal leadership achievements.

The party Central Committee slogan marking the party's 50th founding anniversary reads:

"Let us continually glorify the immortal achievements made by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in all aspects of the revolution and construction!"

These 30 years or more since the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il began to take command of party work represent a course of victory and glory, in which the most splendid era was evolving in the annals of the Korean revolution. They represent a historic period of immense creation and change in which immortal achievements were made, paving the way for the ultimate fulfillment of the revolutionary cause of chuche.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has securely maintained the succession line of the chuche cause since he rose high in the sky as the Paekdu bright star a long time ago, excels in civilian and military leadership as well as in loyalty and filial duty. He has led the revolution and construction on the road of invincible victory, with a peerless and reasoned leadership ability. With the great comrade Comrade Kim Chong-il taking up leadership, the country entered a golden age in every field—political, economic, military, and cultural—and the Korean revolution began to advance all the more vigorously, demonstrating its spirit of chuche. During this historic course the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has made a prodigious contribution to party work and activities, socialist construction, revolutionary army building, national reunification, and the cause of the world revolution.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: "From the time Comrade Kim Chong-il began to exercise his leadership, new changes began to be brought about not only in party work but also in all areas—political, economic, and cultural—and great innovations and upsurges were achieved on all fronts of socialist construction."

It is 50 years since our party was founded, and more than 30 years have elapsed since the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il began to lead party work. In the history of a nation's party, a period of 30 years is not an uneventful one.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has carried out energetic activities for these 30 years or more to strengthen and develop our party and to triumphantly advance the chuche cause of socialism. He has made such immortal achievements and gained such unusually rich experiences that they will shine for centuries to come.

The achievements piled up by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il are the ones achieved jointly with the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and they represent immortal achievements made in the course of implementing the leader's noble ideas and intentions.

The great leader and the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il always stood side by side on the sacred course of triumphantly advancing the revolutionary cause of chuche.

For a long period the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, in his capacity as the highest brain of the revolution, jointly formulated party lines and policies with the great leader, jointly commanded the struggle for their implementation, and jointly led our party and people on the road of victory by holding the helm of the Korean revolution with him. He walked tens and thousands of ri, giving on-the-spot guidance tours with the fatherly leader and assisting him in all his work at the highest standard of excellence, sharing all ordeals and difficulties with him. In this way he became the most loyal assistant, the most faithful great comrade, and the most devoted comrade in arms of the fatherly leader.

All the thoughts and activities of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il are permeated with the desire to uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's cause at its loftiest height. The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's thought was invariably the thought of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il was none other than the leadership of Comrade Kim Il-song. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il shaped the leader's revolutionary ideology into a unitary system of thought, theory, and method of chuche by linking it to his esteemed name, and has led the revolution and construction by upholding the leader's ideas. For this reason, all the achievements of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il sparkle with his infinite loyalty to the leader.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements serve as a priceless guideline in the struggle for the ultimate fulfillment of the deceased leader's cause because they were made in the course of implementing the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's ideology and desires in a flawless way. When we resolutely defend and go on glorifying the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements, we will be able to triumphantly fulfill, without the slightest deviation, the cause of chuche pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and carry on the bloodline of our revolution in pure form.

The achievements of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il are the priceless revolutionary treasures in which his uncommon clairvoyance and wisdom and his outstanding, seasoned leadership capability find comprehensive expression.

The leader's [yongdoja] achievements are none other than the crystallization of the thought and leadership of the leader [yongdoja] who leads the revolution. With unrivaled acumen, scientific insight, an uncommon ability of revolutionary deployment, and a seasoned leadership art, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has energetically led the overall tasks of revolution and construction by taking firm hold of them. Throughout this historic course, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il deepened and developed the chuche ideology into the guiding ideology of our time, strengthened and developed our party into a mighty chuche-type revolutionary party, and built a prosperous people's state and a matchless, invincible revolutionary army. It is due to the leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il that the golden age of the workers' party and the age of great prosperity of the chuche Korea have been ushered in, and our way of socialism has been able to drive on uninterruption by withstanding every storm and ordeal.

The period from the day the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il began to lead party work until now represents the glory-filled history of the revolutionary activities of the great ideological theoretician, the great politician, and the every-victorious iron-willed commander who has led our party, people, and revolutionary armed forces on one road of victory with his outstanding ideology and leadership capability. It also represents the shining annals of the eminent leader [yongdoja], who has achieved nothing but victory and success by using his iron will, matchless prowess, outstanding resourcefulness, and inexhaustible energy to break through the numerous obstacles standing in the way of the revolution and construction. The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements are unusually rich and extensive, spanning all areas, such as philosophy, politics, economics, culture, party building, nation building, and army building. Each is a priceless treasure, infinitely valuable in exploring the destiny of our people. When we resolutely defend them and firmly rely on them, our party and people can successfully resolve all problems encountered in the revolution and construction without running into a dead end, and can brilliantly fulfill the cause of socialism.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il made his achievements by always going among people and becoming one with them.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, who perfectly embodied the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's noble idea of "Treasure people like heaven," has adorned the entire course of his revolutionary activities with love for the people and the spirit of sacrificial service. The great teacher who taught the philosophy of love by emphasizing that the purpose of making revolution is to bring love for the people into bloom is none other than the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il. The benevolent father who presented the slogan "Serve the people!" and who has made the whole country overflow with the spirit of serving the people is none other than Comrade Kim Chong-il. It was due to the guiding hand of leadership [yongdo] that politics that serve the people, the true politics of benevolence, have been practiced with the party becoming a motherly party and the organ of power becoming a faithful servant of the people.

While walking tens of thousands of ri for on-the-spot guidance, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il always went among people and mapped out strategies and tactics by fathoming their aspirations and wishes. He led socialist construction by relying on the people and mobilizing their efforts. On this road of devotion to the people, numerous revolutionary anecdotes, such as those about catnapping [chok cham] and rice balls [chwegibap], were born, and a socialist paradise suddenly came into view with the blossoming of the people's happiness.

The achievements of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il are made for the people and with the people. For this reason, they are the immortal achievements which will shine forever in the hearts of the people.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has accrued his immortal achievements also in the world revolution and the international communist movement. He published numerous immortal classics, such as "Socialism Is Science," illuminating the road ahead for modern socialism and intellectually leading the cause of independence of the world's people. For this reason, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il enjoys the infinite respect and absolute faith of the progressive people in the world.

The achievements of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il are the most brilliant achievements that command the admiration of all humanity. No person ever accumulated as many great achievements in his lifetime as the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has.

Every one of us has grown into a true revolutionary embracing the most precious political life in the course of making revolution by following the leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il. For our revolutionary fighters—who are marching forward, rallied closely around the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il and upholding the teachings of the departed fatherly leader—no duty is more sacred and honorable than to defend and protect and glorify the achievements of the party and the leader.

When our party members and workers struggle to forever value and glorify the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements by devoting all their wisdom, zeal, and energy, they can fulfill their noble duty as fighters and disciples of Comrade Kim Chong-il and lead the most valuable life.

All party members and workers, bearing in mind that the future of their country and people is bright because they have the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il at the helm, must resolutely defend and protect Comrade Kim Chong-il with their lives, politically and ideologically, and continually glorify his achievements.

Party members and workers must realize that to protect and glorify the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements by inheriting them from generation to generation is their most sacred duty in defending and protecting the prestige of the leader [yongdoja], and with this realization, devote all their wisdom and enthusiasm to this duty.

We must above all push forward the revolution and construction, regarding the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements as precious as our lifeline.

The revolutionary cause advances and is fulfilled on the basis of the leader's [yongdoja] achievements. The struggle to defend and protect the leader's [yongdoja] achievements is at once the struggle to carry out the revolution and construction in accordance with his ideas and intentions and the most sacred struggle for our victory in the revolution.

The achievements the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has accumulated while leading the revolution for these 30 years or more constitute the eternal lifeline of the Korean revolution and a valuable ideological and moral treasure indispensable in carrying the cause of chuche from generation to generation and through to completion. Comprehensively synthesized in the record of his achievements are the directions and methods for triumphantly advancing the revolution and construction under the banner of the chuche ideology.

Whatever jobs we perform, and wherever we perform them, we must resolutely defend and protect the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements and solve all problems encountered in the revolution and construction on the basis of the achievements of the party and the leader [suryong].

All functionaries and workers must regard the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements as the apple of their eyes, glorifying them and keeping them 100 percent as they are. When party functionaries carry out even only one piece of political work by meeting people and talking with them, they should conduct it in strict accordance with the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's instructions. When party functionaries conduct even only one piece of economic organizational work and direct production, they should execute it with the sole intention of better carrying out Comrade Kim Chong-il's intentions. In so doing, they must permeate the whole society with the ethos of constantly glorifying the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements and working and living on that basis.

Moreover, we must continually glorify the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements through our practical struggle for socialist construction.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements provide the guidelines for our party members and workers in their work and living and serve as a powerful weapon in their revolutionary struggle. When we rely firmly on the achievements of the party and the leader, there will be no task we cannot accomplish, nor any fortress we cannot capture.

All party members and workers must work with the same indomitable revolutionary spirit and struggle ethos that the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has shown in person while leading socialist construction. We must bring about another great upsurge in socialist construction by working with the same spirit and ardor with which we raised the winds of the speed battle by following the great leadership of the party, and with the same fighting spirit and vigor with which we erected great monumental structures such as the West Sea floodgate and ushered in the golden age of the Workers party. In particular, by upholding the party Central Committee slogan marking the party's 50th founding anniversary and by thoroughly implementing the revolutionary economic strategy of the party, they must radically improve the people's living standard and forcefully demonstrate the superiority of our way of socialism. Thus they must make the whole country reverberating with the drumbeats of the revolution and make the fire of another great upturn rise briskly.

At the same time, we must better fix those units honored by on-the-spot guidance tours and thoroughly implement the specific tasks assigned during these tours.

Everywhere in our country, every sector and unit is filled with the sacred imprint of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership.

To fix and glorify those units filled with the imprints of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's on-the-spot guidance is an important requirement for defending and preserving Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements. We must better fix those units honored by the on-the-spot guidance of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il and accelerate the revolution and construction by using them as models. Particularly the functionaries and workers of those units honored by the on-the-spot guidance of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il must thoroughly implement the instructions given during his on-the-spot guidance and thus take the lead in every field.

In order to continually glorify the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements, it is necessary to enhance the role of party organizations.

Defending and protecting the achievements of the party and the leader and continually glorifying them is an essential requirement for triumphantly advancing our revolutionary cause and carrying it through to completion. Party organizations must step up the ideological education of party members and workers to make them clearly learn by experience the greatness of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements. In particular, party organizations must make party members and workers vividly realize the truth by citing the lessons of those countries where socialism has collapsed—the truth that if we should fail to defend and protect the achievements of the party and the leader, we would damage the authority and prestige of the party and the leader and end up losing the gains of the revolution which they achieved with their blood. At the same time, party organizations must aggressively conduct the task to make functionaries and workers clearly see the imprints of the leadership exercised by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il; perceive his leadership achievements as reflected in their respective sectors and units; and go on glorifying them.

Having the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il loftily at the head of our party and revolution, and living and making revolution on the basis of his immortal achievements, is the highest pride and the greatest happiness of our people.

All functionaries, party members, and workers must make their country, their fatherland, richer and stronger and carry the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the great leader through to ultimate consummation by continually glorifying the leadership achievements made by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in every aspect of the revolution and construction.

Editorial Stresses Kim Chong-il's Ideology

952C0168A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 22 Jun 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Firmly Consolidate the Ideological Position of Socialism by Following the Road Illuminated by the Great Comrade Kim Chong-il!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il is leading the cause of socialism on the one road of victory with his uncommon wisdom and energetic ideological and theoretical activities.

The immortal masterpiece published by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, "Giving Priority to Ideological Work is an Essential Requirement for the Fulfillment of the Cause of Socialism," is creating a tremendous sensation among all our party members and workers.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in this masterpiece comprehensively elucidates a unique revolutionary theory based on a scientific analysis of the practical experience in our revolution and the natural demands for the fulfillment of th cause of socialism. This elucidation marks a great historic event in the struggle of our party and our people to build our own way of socialism under the banner of the chuche ideology.

Our party members and workers are brimming over with an immense pride and joy as they embrace this immortal classic, which illuminates the road to the brilliant fulfillment of the cause of socialism, while burning with a firm determination to implement the thought and theory elucidated by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The important thought permeating the classic "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is an Essential Requirement for the Fulfillment of the Cause of Socialism" is that the cause of socialism can be brought to its ultimate fulfillment by arming the masses airtight with socialist ideology and thus solidifying the ideological position of socialism.

Ideology is vital to socialist society.

No socialist system comes into existence or develops without ideological work. Socialist society is one which is led by socialist ideology and which develops with socialist ideology as the basic driving force. How to conduct ideological work and how to prepare people in ideological terms determines the consolidation, development, and fate of socialism.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's masterpiece analyzes in depth, in theoretical and practical terms, how giving priority to ideological work becomes an essential requirement for the fulfillment of the cause of socialism, and elucidates the basic goals and substance of ideological work and its principles and methods consistent with the inherent requirements of socialism. The masterpiece elucidates the scientific method for bringing the cause of socialism to its ultimate fulfillment, with a firm grip on the thought and theory of the chuche ideology—this is where the immense vitality of the masterpiece lies.

This masterpiece of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il is an immortal classic that synthesizes the chuche-based thought and theory of socialism and develops them onto a higher stage and to perfection.

With his energetic ideological and theoretical activities, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has continually developed and enriched the chuche-based socialist ideology founded by the great leader, and provided answers to all theoretical and practical questions arising in the fulfillment of the cause of socialism. In this process the chuche theory of socialism has been synthesized comprehensively and brought to perfection.

This latest masterpiece of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, along with "Socialism Is Science" he published last year, occupies a niche in the development of the chuche theory of socialism. Theoretically generalized in the masterpiece are the rich experience and achievements gained by our party in leading our revolution and construction over a long time, the topics ranging from the important significance of ideological work in the fulfillment of the cause of socialism to the theory on the decisive role ideological consciousness plays and the question of how to carry out the ideological remolding of people. With the publication of this masterpiece, which is run through with iron-clad logic, prime themes, and unique discoveries, the chuche theory of socialism has come to be brought to perfection, with its reformative role unprecedentedly enhanced in fulfilling the cause of socialism. For this reason the masterpiece has become a monumental document that has made a singular contribution to the development of the revolutionary thought of the working class.

The publication of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's classic "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is an Essential Requirement for the Fulfillment of the Cause of Socialism" is of great theoretical and practical significance in the fulfillment of the cause of socialism.

The masterpiece, above all, has put a powerful weapon in the hands of the peoples making revolution, enabling them to accelerate socialist construction triumphantly without an inch of deviation.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows: "We must step up ideological work in order to defend socialism and lead it to victory."

For the successful fulfillment of the cause of socialism, we must put ideological work ahead of all other tasks, with a tight grip on it as a basic requirement. The most critical lesson drawn from the collapse of socialism in many countries is that degeneration of socialism begins with the degeneration of ideology, and that when the ideological front line collapses, all other front lines of socialism collapse, bringing down socialism lock, stock, and barrel.

The latest masterpiece elucidates that socialism triumphs when it has a firm grip on ideology, but goes to seeds when it loses that grip. With this profound elucidation has come to be put into place the basic guideline with a firm grip of which we must go forward on the entire historic course of fulfilling the cause of socialism.

The masterpiece enunciates the thought on the necessity of consolidating and developing socialist economic relations, which are the economic and material foundations of socialism, and stepping up ideological remolding work designed to arm people with socialist ideology. This thought, in particular, is of great importance in socialist construction.

In our country we were able to triumphantly advance the cause of socialism in the past period by giving definite priority to ideological work. Only by arming the masses airtight with socialist ideology and consolidating the ideological position of socialism is it possible to consolidate and develop the cause of socialism and staunchly defend socialism, come whatever violent storm may. This is the valuable truth proven by the practice of our revolution.

With the presentation by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il of the theory on giving priority to ideological work with a firm grip on it as a basic requirement, our party and people have been able to continue to move forward on a straight path, with an immense pride and faith in the revolutionary cause. The masterpiece will be the source of great encouragement for the peoples aspiring for socialism and struggling to revive socialism and inspire them to come forward as one to fulfill the cause of socialism with a firm faith in their future.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal work provides the guideline to which the working-class party must always adhere in its ideological work.

The working-class party is the leading political organization which awakens the masses and organizes and mobilizes them in the revolution and construction by using ideology as a weapon. For the working-class party struggling for the independent cause of the masses, nothing is more important than ideological work.

With the elucidation by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong- il in his classic of the truth that ideology is the only weapon of the working-class party and the most powerful of all weapons at that, the correct way has been paved for the party to carry out revolutionary activities in a manner consistent with its inherent needs. As a result, it has become possible for the working-class party to fulfill its inherent mission and duty as the leading political organization by guiding the masses in their independent cause.

With the complete elucidation of the basic goals and substance as well as the principles and methods of ideological work, the way has been paved for the working-class party to carry out ideological work in a purposeful manner, with distinct goals and methods.

To give definite priority to ideological work with a firm grip on it is the principle to which our party has consistently adhered in leading the revolution and construction. It is because we have the chuche-based ideological theory enunciated by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il that our party has been able to continue to step up ideological work and implement all the more thoroughly the principle of giving the first priority to ideological work, thereby demonstrating its dignity and invincible power to the fullest as the party guiding the chuche cause of socialism.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's classic is also the powerful weapon of struggle which enables us to crush the machinations by the imperialists and all descriptions of reactionary forces bent upon obliterating socialist ideology and disintegrating socialism in ideological terms and defend the banner of socialism to the end.

Disintegrating socialist countries in ideological and cultural terms occupies an important place in the anti-socialist machinations of the imperialists. What the imperialists fear most is the power of the masses who are awakened and armed to the maximum extent with socialist ideology. While maliciously slandering and vilifying socialist ideology, the imperialists are viciously scheming to blow all sorts of reactionary thoughts, including bourgeois ideology, as well as the bourgeois way of life, into socialist countries. In particular, they are virulently criticizing the ideological work being conducted in socialist countries by branding it as "monolithic," "ideological infusion," and so forth. Resolutely to smash the machinations of the enemies is a responsible and important task in defending the lifeline of socialist society.

The classic clearly lays bare the nature, reactionary character, and toxicity of the machinations of the imperialists and the socialist renegades and stresses the importance of the problem of how the working-class party and the socialist state should step up ideological education among party members and workers in order to block the infiltration of bourgeois reactionary ideologies and the corrupt bourgeois culture and lifestyle from the outside. Only when we go forward with a firm grip on these tasks set forth in the immortal work can we doggedly defend the ideological front line of socialism. In particular, in resolutely defending and protecting the cause of socialism it is of great importance to condemn the counterrevolutionary machinations — and their harmful nature — of the socialist renegades who have destroyed everything socialist by creating ideological confusion among people under the slogans of "openness" and "pluralism" and flinging the door wide open to the infiltration of bourgeois reactionary ideology.

Indeed the latest masterpiece has an immeasurably great significance in deepening and developing the theory of socialist construction in the process of fulfilling overall the cause of socialism and developing the ideological work of the working-class party. The publication of the immortal classic "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is an Essential Requirement for the Fulfillment of the Cause of Socialism" marks the fruition of the protracted ideological and theoretical activities and the revolutionary practice of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has led the whole breadth of party ideological work and socialist construction on the one road of invincible victory, with uncommon wisdom and a seasoned leadership ability.

On the basis of the theory of chuche that ideology determines everything, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il early on laid down the principle of bringing ideological work ahead of all other tasks with a firm grip of ideology as a basic requirement, and comprehensively set forth the principles and methods which we should adhere to in ideological work. Particularly, while leading day in, day out the cause of converting the whole society to the chuche ideology, he gave comprehensive answers to all theoretical and practical questions concerning ideological work. The latest masterpiece shines as a monumental document of our time because it contains an unusually rich treasure of ideological and theoretical knowledge which the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated while leading daily ideological work — which is the most difficult and important tasks in the undertakings of the working-class party and socialist construction — without the slightest deviation.

The journey taken by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in leading the ideological work of our party was a course on which all sorts of outmoded mannerisms lurking in ideological work were eradicated and fundamental changes took place day after day in every aspect of ideological work, such as its substance, form, and method. The long history of struggle of the working class knows of no leader who attached as much importance to ideological work in party building and socialist construction as the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il does, nor of any political leader who made such a singular contribution to the development of ideological work and who gained such an immeasurably rich experience in ideological work as the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has. His latest masterpiece will make all party members and workers and all progressive peoples cherish a firm faith in the greatness of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is leading the cause of socialism on an ever-victorious path.

Today we are confronted with the important task of making signal progress in our party's ideological work and overall socialist construction, upholding the thought elucidated in the latest immortal work of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

We must above all vigorously carry out a partywide effort to study in depth the profound thought, theory, and policy elucidated in the latest document.

To go forward with a firm grip on the thought and theory of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il as an inviolable maxim and the eternal lifeline of our party and revolution is the most noble duty of our revolutionary fighters. When people assimilates the thought and theory of the immortal work of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il into flesh and bone and etch them in their hearts as faith, they will be doing their duty as true loyal servants.

All functionaries, party members, and workers should study the latest masterpiece in depth by perusing each word and phrase, regarding it as precious ideological and spiritual food, so that they may master it completely, covering every aspect ranging from the basic thought and substance to the themes and expressions.

The latest masterpiece of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong- il is the banner of socialism, the banner of struggle, and a true textbook on revolution because it elucidates the basic problems arising in the fulfillment of the cause of socialism with erudition. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il clearly shows the road to victory for socialism by analyzing his long experience in socialist construction and generalizing the lessons he learned. Through the study of his document, we must deeply comprehend his greatness and the judiciousness of his leadership and strengthen our determination to loyally uphold his thought and leadership. At the same time, we must cherish deeply the conviction that the cause of our way of socialism, which is vigorously marching onward under the most correct ideological and theoretical guideline, will emerge victorious without fail. We must prevent all tides of counterrevolutionary opportunist ideologies from seeping into our midst by seeing through the reactionary nature and the dangerousness of the treacheries committed by the enemies of socialism who have disarmed peoples ideologically and caused the collapse of socialism.

To step up the ideological education of party members and workers to suit the demands of developing reality is an important task confronting party organizations and functionaries at all levels today.

As elucidated in the document, ideological work must constantly deepen and develop in step with progress in the cause of socialism and accelerate when the machinations of the enemies become more vicious. Stagnation and stalemate in ideological work mean a step backward.

We must continue to put great efforts into ideological work, always keeping in mind that ideological work is the most important task in solidifying the ideological position of socialism and bringing about a new upturn in the revolution and construction. All party organizations must uphold the following policies and thoroughly implement them in the practice of party ideological work: the policy of conducting ideological remolding work on a partywide, nationwide, and societywide scale; the policy of converting ideological remolding work to the masses' own work; and the policy of thoroughly doing away with administrative ruts and mannerism in ideological work and conducting ideological work in a fresh and substantive manner. In particular, it is important to firmly establish the ethos of all functionaries, including party functionaries, always going among the masses to educate them, working in perfect harmony with them.

It is an honorable duty of our functionaries and party members to protect and glorify the leadership achievements of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has led the cause of socialism on the one road of victory. We must regard the achievements made by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il in his daily effort to bring about a radical change in ideological work as a priceless treasure of our party and revolution, and do everything in our power to glorify them for generations to come. Party organizations and the department in charge of party ideological work must operate in accordance with the principles, the work method, and the methodology formulated by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il in ideological work and firmly establish the ethos of conducting ideological work only in accordance with the intentions of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Let us all uphold the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal work "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is an Essential Requirement for the Fulfillment of the Cause of Socialism" and make greater progress in ideological work and socialist construction so that we may add luster after luster to our way of socialism with the masses of people at its center.

Chang Chol Addresses National Art Festival

SK1609075895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA) — A National People's Art Festival opened in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Colorful art pieces selected at provincial contests will be presented for the art festival which is participated in by art circle members of organs, enterprises, factories and cooperative farms, working people and housewives in the capital and local areas.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has energetically led mass art activities to popularize literature and art and make art an inseparable part of life in the whole country, saw to it that the festival was held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the WPK.

Chang Chol, vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and art, made an opening address at the opening ceremony of the National People's Art Festival held in Pyongyang on September 15.

South Korea

U.S. Ends 1st Stage of Fuel Rod Storage Work

SK2109014695 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2310 GMT 20 Sep 95

[Report by correspondent Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has finished the first-stage in a series of measures to permanently store North Korea's 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods. The United States installed water-purification devices to prevent the corrosion of the spent nuclear fuel rods stored in the water tanks. U.S. Secretary of Energy O'Leary disclosed this for the first time at the general meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

He also said that this job was conducted by both the United States and the IAEA, and that the water-purification devices are operational. He then said that the water-purification devices would greatly slow the corrosion of the spent fuel rods and that this was the first step in a series of measures to permanently store North Korea's 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods.

The United States plans to pack the 8,000 fuel rods in specially manufactured boxes and safely store them in the water tanks in Yongbyon before delivering them to a third country, as stipulated in the nuclear agreement.

Meanwhile, 43 countries, including the ROK, the United States, and Russia, presented a draft resolution on North Korea to the general meeting. The resolution asks North Korea to fully abide by the nuclear agreement and hopes that it will revive its membership [in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty].

The IAEA meeting will discuss the North Korean nuclear issue and the French nuclear testing issue tomorrow and close after adopting a resolution on North Korea.

U.S. Resolution on Relations With North Viewed

SK2109051095 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 21 Sep 95 p 3

[Editorial: "No Further Advance Than Liaison Offices"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. House of Representatives has adopted a resolution calling on the U.S. Administration not to promote U.S.-DPRK relations further than the mutual establishment of liaison offices if North Korea does not make considerable efforts to improve relations between North and South Korea and to ease tension on the Korean peninsula. This resolution will work as a strong warning to North Korea, as a brake on the U.S. Clinton administration's policy toward North

Korea, and as a stimulant to our government. Thus, the resolution is of great significance.

We wish, first of all, to closely examine why the U.S. Congress had to apply a brake on the Clinton administration's policy on North Korea. In March, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee adopted a resolution calling for expanding general exchanges between North and South Korea, including a North-South summit, implementation of the basic agreement, mutual nuclear inspections, and trade. One can hardly deny that such movements by the U.S. Congress were prompted by its distrust [pulsin] of the Clinton administration's policy on North Korea. The congressmen, who have a lot of experience in Congress in dealing with relations with Asia, including North Korea, might have thought that there is no center of gravity [chungsim] and basis in the Clinton administration's Northeast Asian policy.

It is true that President Clinton, who is leading the post-Cold War era, demonstrated an incomprehensible approach toward relations with North Korea and China. Confusion was revealed in the Clinton administration's vision and the pursuit of its goals, as well as in its prioritizing goals. Attention is focused on how the Clinton administration will fine tune its North Korean policy since the U.S. House of Representatives adopted the resolution and how the relationship between the U.S. Congress and the Clinton administration will be adjusted in the future.

We believe that the resolution of the U.S. House of Representatives has many factors for our government to sincerely study and to reflect in its policy toward the North. Is our government implementing consistent policies toward the North, with the trust of the people and the National Assembly? Did our government's policies toward North Korea rightfully reflect our people's intentions? Is our government actively coping with the trend in international relations after the end of the Cold War? In examining all these issues, we should use the resolution of the U.S. House of Representatives as an impetus. At the same time, we should reflect on whether our government has the center of gravity and basis in implementing its policies toward North Korea, and on whether our government is trying to do this or that merely to seek luck by chance.

In addition, our National Assembly should examine what function it played in the government's policy on North Korea. If the interest and effort of our National Assembly for North-South relations — our own issue — were less than what is reflected in the resolution of the U.S. House of Representatives, it should deserve to be subject to public criticism.

North Korea should now realize that opening dialogue with the South side and advancing toward the world through the ROK are a precondition and the cardinal point for everything. The U.S. Congress clearly showed that the idea of getting something by approaching the United States without an improvement in North-South relations is merely an illusion.

Press Report on U.S.-North Liaison Issue

SK2009101895 Seoul YONHAP in English
0745 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 20 (YONHAP) — The United States and North Korea may exchange liaison offices early next year, Radio Russia reported Tuesday.

Commenting on a U.S. State Department delegation's scheduled visit to Pyongyang, Sept. 23-30, to discuss the issue of establishing liaison offices, Radio Russia said that the fact that the delegation is visiting North Korea in itself is significant.

As to when the liaison offices will be opened, the NAEWOE Press, the official North Korea watcher here, quoted the report as speculating, "it would be impossible to set up liaison offices within the year, but they may be opened early next year."

The realization of nuclear reactor supply talks between the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea has removed many obstacles to realizing the exchange of liaison offices between Washington and Pyongyang, the radio opined.

Reporting on the passage by the U.S. House of Representatives Monday of a resolution requiring North Korea meet a set of strict conditions before the United States would upgrade its relations, Radio Russia commented: "Although it is non-binding, the resolution applies pressure to the Clinton administration with regard (to exercising caution) in its dealings with North Korea."

Seoul Reportedly Opposes U.S. 'Package Deal'

SK2009124795 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
20 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Choe Won-ki]

[FBIS Translated Text] For a satisfactory settlement of the light-water reactor [LWR] talks with North Korea, the United States has reportedly proposed a package deal that links the scope of the provision of LWR and the terms of payment with other contents of the LWR supply contract.

Reacting to this, our government has reportedly opposed the U.S. proposal, judging that chances are high that the package deal will expand the scope of LWR supply and, accordingly, will increase the ROK's share of expenses as the party playing a leading role in the reactor supply project.

The issue is expected to arouse controversy between the Korean Energy Development Organization [KEDO] and North Korea, or between the United States and the ROK.

A government official revealed the following on 19 September: "During the two-day meeting held in Tokyo from 14 September of the executive board of the consortium, the U.S. side proposed that the scope of LWR supply and the terms be linked with other major issues, such as implementation of nuclear inspection and a nuclear freeze, and compensation in the event of radioactivity leaks."

The official said "our side expressed strong opposition to this proposal, emphasizing that the scope of LWR supply should follow internationally-accepted norms and practice," and continued that "the ROK's additional share of the expenses in addition to its central role in the reactor supply project is difficult to accept in the light of public sentiment."

However, some in the government say it is inevitable that the package settlement will be accepted.

North Korea demanded at the Kuala Lumpur talks that $1 billion in additional aid, such as power transmission and distribution facilities, ports, roads, and simulators for training, be included in the contract.

North Korea also stated that the contents of compensation in the event of radioactivity leaks during or after the construction or if the project is not implemented; the nuclear freeze and its acceptance of nuclear inspection; and the opening to the public of the KEDO side's work processes be included in the agreement.

Therefore, a considerable portion of North Korea's demands are seen to have been reflected in the U.S. side's proposed-package deal as the United States seeks a settlement of the reactor supply project.

However, not just the ROK but also Japan is taking a negative stance toward the package deal due to the extra burden that is expected to follow in the wake of the supply of additional facilities.

Seoul To Contribute $3 Billion to LWR Project

SK2109031095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 (YONHAP) — South Korean Ambassador to Japan Kim Tae-chi said Wednesday that South Korea will contribute 3 billion U.S. dollars, about 75 percent of the 4-billion-dollar total, to the light-water reactor [LWR] project in North Korea.

Amb. Kim made the remarks while delivering a speech to a lecture sponsored by the MAINICHI SHIMBUN.

Japanese newspapers said it is the first time that a senior South Korean Government official disclosed the detailed amount Seoul will provide for the international light-water reactor supply to North Korea.

Meanwhile, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Thursday that it is worth noting that South Korea clearly revealed its plan to contribute more than half the total cost of the light-water reactor project.

However, the South Korean Embassy here explained that the amount Amb. Kim reportedly disclosed is not accurate.

"South Korea will bear a considerable amount of the burden, but the exact figure has not yet been decided," an embassy official explained.

Spokesman Denies Envoy Remarks

SK2109070895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0643 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 21 (YONHAP) — South Korea, Japan and the United States have yet to decide what their exact individual contributions will be toward the total cost of constructing two light-water nuclear reactors in North Korea, Foreign Ministry Spokesman So Tae-won said Thursday.

Dismissing as "untrue" the remarks made by South Korean Ambassador to Japan Kim Tae-chi Wednesday, in which he said that South Korea will pay for roughly 75 percent of the total North Korean nuclear project, So said in a statement, "We have not yet entered the stage where the three countries are negotiating how to divide the cost of the project.

"South Korea, Japan and the United States will discuss the issue only after an agreement is reached between the Korean peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea on the provision of two light-water reactors to the North and after the expense of the project is calculated," the statement added.

The announcement, however, reiterated the government's position that South Korea will play a central role in the North Korean reactor project and share a substantial portion of the financial burden.

Ambassador Kim had said that the North Korean reactor project will cost about 4 billion dollars and that South Korea will share three-fourths of the total cost.

Background of IAEA's North Resolution Viewed

SK2109085695 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 21 Sep 95 p 9

[Article by reporter Kim Chang-hui in Vienna: "No Progress in Uncovering 'North Korea's Nuclear Past' — Problems in the Wake of the 'IAEA's Resolution'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A resolution on the North Korean nuclear problem has been presented to the annual plenary meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] now in progress because the IAEA member countries are deeply concerned about the unsolved North Korean nuclear problem.

They are concerned because, since it promised at the high-level talks with the United States in October last year that it would remain as a signatory of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and fulfill its duty of abiding by the safeguards accord under the treaty, North Korea has not appropriately fulfilled its duty, except for the fact that it froze its nuclear program.

The countries that proposed the resolution say that North Korea is the only one that has not appropriately fulfilled its duties under the safeguards accord.

The Western countries that had kept in step with each other regarding the North Korean nuclear problem appeared to be somewhat hesitant in seeking the adoption of a resolution at the annual meeting. This is because North Korea had not created any problem and because North Korea and the IAEA had been holding technical consultations.

However, the notion that such a cooperative gesture was self-contradictory reemerged again just before the annual plenary meeting. Every time the North Korean nuclear problem was discussed at the IAEA annual plenary meetings or Executive Committee meetings or on any other occasions, North Korea practiced a strategy under which it arranged this consultative meeting or that under various pretexts, let steam out, and returned the discussion on the North Korean nuclear problem to the starting point.

For example, an IAEA team went to North Korea on 12 September. However, it reportedly gained nothing substantial after a week of consultations and left North Korea on 19 September.

The passage of the resolution appears to have no problem. This is because the resolution merely expresses a concern about North Korea's continued failure to fulfill its duties and urges North Korea to cooperate with the IAEA.

However, some people even say that the agreement adopted at the North Korea-U.S. high-level talks has given rise to confusion in the North Korea-IAEA handling of the North Korean nuclear problem.

The North Korea-U.S. agreement includes a complex schedule: The North Korean nuclear program will be frozen within one month after the signing of the agreement; ordinary inspections will resume as soon as the light-water reactors supply agreement is signed; and special inspections will be allowed before major parts for the light-water reactors will be delivered. However, at present, the North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization [KEDO] discussions have been under way merely for the second stage.

If North Korea continuously insists that the spent fuel rods from the five-megawatt atomic reactor in Yongbyon, which will be crucial in probing the past of the North Korean nuclear activities, will not be subjected to "special inspections," the IAEA will have no choice but to helplessly see the truth buried forever. This is because packing to permanently store the 8,000-odd spent fuel rods will begin in October and because, when the packing, which will take approximately six months, is finished, it will be virtually impossible to examine the spent fuel rods and find the truth about North Korea's past nuclear activities.

This is a basic dilemma of the North Korean nuclear problem, IAEA officials point out.

U.S., IAEA Reportedly Differ on North Issue

SK2109005095 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 21 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Pak Tu-sik from Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 20 September that the U.S. Government recently transferred Nuclear Ambassador Robert Gallucci [title as received] to another position and reorganized the team in charge of the North Korean nuclear issue.

Furthermore, the United States has decided not to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] demand for the verification of North Korea's past nuclear activities, believing "it is not implementable." At the same time, the U.S. Government has decided to concentrate all possible efforts on holding various working-level negotiations with North Korea. A diplomatic source in Washington noted the above and added: "In fact, the position of IAEA Director General Hans Blix and the IAEA Secretariat is approaching virtual 'abrogation of the Geneva agreement.'"

KEDO, Pyongyang Discuss Timing of Next Talks

SK2109015295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0123 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 21 (YONHAP) — The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea have agreed in principle to hold the second round of their high-level talks seeking to conclude a light-water nuclear reactor supply contract in New York around Oct. 16.

But the North demands that expenditures needed for holding the talks in New York including airfare be borne by the KEDO, an official of the Office of Planning for the Light-water Reactor [LWR] Project here said Thursday.

"North Korea has accepted in principle a KEDO proposal that the second round of the reactor talks be held before the first anniversary on Oct. 21 of the Washington-Pyongyang nuclear agreed framework in Geneva," the official said. "The second round of talks will be held around Oct. 16."

At the forthcoming second round of the talks, the two sides will attempt to reach compromise on five pending issues that emerged in the first round held in Kuala Lumpur recently, which include extra facilities to two light-water reactors and terms of repayment. KEDO Executive Director Stephen Bosworth reportedly suggested a package settlement of the light-water reactor problem in a recent KEDO executive council meeting.

Earlier, both sides have agreed to resume their experts talks in Kuala Lumpur on Sept. 30, according to the official.

Prior to the experts meeting, working-level officials from South Korea, the United States and Japan will get together in Tokyo Sept. 26-27, to be followed by another KEDO executive council meeting before the second round of the light-water reactor talks opens in New York, the official said.

"But the North Koreans, asserting that they are unable to bear expenses needed for the New York talks, have requested that the KEDO pay the expenses," the official said.

"In view of the fact that the North raised the expenditure issue prior to the first round of the talks, the request is assumed to be an attempt to apply pressure on the KEDO," he added.

As was the case with the first round of the talks held in Kuala Lumpur, the KEDO is expected to be represented at the second round by its Executive Director Bosworth, Deputy Executive Directors Choe Yong-chin from South Korea and Itaru Umezu from Japan and working-level officials, while the North Korean delegation is headed by Ambassador Ho Chong.

'Automatic' U.S. Defense Intervention Sought

SK2109021895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0204 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 21 (YONHAP) — South Korea is seeking a declaration from the United States stating that it will automatically intervene should an armed conflict erupt on the Korean peninsula, according to the Defense Ministry Thursday.

South Korea is requesting the United States make the announcement in a statement to be issued jointly by the defense ministers of the two countries at the close of their meeting slated for early November in Seoul.

In order to make the 27th annual ROK (Republic of Korea)-U.S. security consultative meeting an opportunity to demonstrate the traditional friendship between the two countries to the world and to North Korea in particular, the ministry is negotiating with the U.S. Defense Department to include such a declaration in the statement Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry will jointly issue following their meeting here in early November, ministry officials said.

The move has come on the heels of Russia's onesided repeal of the mutual defense pact that the former Soviet Union entered into with North Korea and which stipulated that the former Soviet Union, now Russia, would automatically intervene in the event of a conflict erupted on the Korean peninsula.

Behind this move is the need that South Korea feels Seoul and Washington must take joint action in dealing with North Korea's schemes to scrap the Korean war armistice agreement and exclude South Korea from future peace talks on the Korean peninsula, observers said.

Under the existing ROK-U.S. mutual defense treaty, the United States would come to the aid of South Korea through due constitutional procedures and consultations with Seoul should it face armed attack. However, it does not stipulate automatic U.S. intervention should in a conflict erupt on the peninsula.

Further Reporting on Automobile Talks

U.S. 'Threatened' Super 301

SK2009150095 Seoul KBS-1 Television in Korean 1228 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Yu Kun-chang] The ROK and the United States began automobile talks early this morning, Korean time, in Washington, D.C. The U.S. has demanded that the ROK side reduce customs taxes and revise the tax system on cars, while the ROK insists that it can no longer make concessions. We don't know how long we can endure such strong pressure from the United States. This issue has attracted much attention. We have a report from correspondent Pak Won-hong in Washington.

[Begin Pak Won-hong recording] In today's talks, the U.S. side has reportedly threatened that it will mobilize all possible means — such as exercising the Super 301 provision and taking the dispute to the World Trade Organization — if the ROK does not remove trade obstacles. The U.S. has also been repeating its basic position on the need for and problems encountered in opening the ROK car market. Our delegation stressed that the ROK has concentrated maximum sincere efforts on achieving this by coordinating all kinds of taxes and simplifying customs clearance.

In today's talks the ROK and the U.S. side intensively discussed the issue of approving U.S. car models to be imported into the ROK, and they have also decided to continue discussing the differences in car headlight beams, as well as the noise issue. They have confirmed their opinions concerning further simplification of all kinds of documents, as demanded by U.S. business circles.

Both the ROK and the U.S. will mainly discuss the tax system at a White House conference room tonight. [end recording]

[Begin recording by Han Yong-su, ROK senior delegate to the talks] What the U.S. side says is that in the future the ROK should revise the various tax systems unfavorable to U.S.-made large-sized cars when they are introduced into the ROK. I believe this will be a difficult issue. [end recording]

[Begin Pak recording] An official concerned with the talks stated that because the ROK and the U.S. side have the same burden in applying the Super 301 measures to the ROK, they are likely to be sympathetic with the need for compromise. Another official concerned with the talks also hinted that the atmosphere of the talks is positive, saying that it is possible for both the ROK and U.S. sides to extend the talks for one or two days in accordance with the need for sincere discussions. [end recording]

Two Sides Will Lose if 'Clash'

SK2009163095 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1230 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Yu Kun-chang] It is expected that the ROK-U.S. car talks will continue to be a tug-of- war in the future. In order to prevent the ROK from becoming a second Japan, the United States has shown the strongest front during the early stage of talks, but the two sides will lose when they clash with each other. Therefore, it is possible that some sort of agreement will be reached. However, the recent offensives by the United States are considered to be unreasonable pressure. We have a report by Paek Chun-ho.

[Being Paek recording] The total number of imported cars that had been sold in the ROK before August this year numbered 4,630. This is a two-fold increase over the number sold in the same period last year. Of these 4,630 cars, the United States sold approximately 1,700 cars accounting for a little over one-third of the total. Most of the cars imported from European countries were sold. The business circles stress that it is unreasonable to say that the number of U.S.-made cars sold is low because the ROK markets are closed and because prices set on the cars in Korea are too high. According to a survey by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the U.S.-made "Sable" is actually cheaper than the ROK-made car "Potentia" by approximately 100,000 won.

Small- and medium-sized cars [with engine displacements] under 2000 cc's account for 90 percent of the total cars in the ROK. The imported cars — particularly most of the U.S.-made cars — are large cars with over 2000 cc's in [displacement]. Therefore, Korean consumers' demands for large cars are limited. [end recording]

[Begin Kim Pyong-uk, Kia Economic Institute, recording] The reason the United States has failed to increase its car sales in the ROK market is due to problems in its marketing strategy. Therefore, their emphasis on domestic car markets that are closed due to the Korean system of taxes on cars can be considered an unreasonable emphasis. [end recording]

[Begin Paek recording] Also, the trade deficit with the United State before August this year amounted to $4.8 billion. This is five times more than the total amount last year. Therefore, it is unreasonable to impose pressure on the ROK only on the issue of cars. Practically, the customs rate of 8 percent, which is the main issue in the talks, is less than the 10 percent customs rate applied to cars from European countries. Also, the progressive tax according to engine displacement is intended to encourage people to own small cars, as well as to increase tax revenues. The measure is not intended to discriminate against imported cars in favor of domestic cars. Also, the installment banking markets have been opened earlier than the scheduled date. Furthermore, the tax investigation into imported cars has not been carried out. Therefore, the U.S. pressure to open the car markets can be considered highhanded. People point out that considering such unreasonable pressure to open our car markets by the United States, our government should bravely and logically carry out trade negotiations for protecting the car industry and taking the total balance of trade into account. [end recording]

Seoul To Ink Plane Export Pact With U.S.

SK2109090995 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 21 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Kim Chong-hyon]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has decided to conclude an agreement with the United States on planes exports.

The conclusion of the agreement will make it possible to export mid-size planes to be developed jointly by the ROK and China, as well as major plane parts, to the United States. It will provide the international plane market with the opportunity to officially recognize the quality of ROK planes.

On 20 September, the government held a meeting presided over by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, with the Board of Finance and Economy; the Ministry of Construction and Transportation; the Foreign Ministry; and the Ministry of Science and Technology to seek measures for concluding an "agreement on exporting planes and plane parts" with the United States. At the meeting, the government decided to dispatch a working-level negotiation team to the United States on 26 September and let it stay there until 3 October to convey a letter of intention to the head of the U.S. Federal Aviation Center.

The agreement on exporting ROK planes to the United States, being promoted by the government, is the Bilateral Airworthiness Agreement, BAA, which covers everything related to planes, such as plane bodies, engines, propellers, equipment, materials, and small assembly parts.

Currently, the United States has signed BAA's with 14 advanced countries, including Japan, Australia, Canada, and Germany.

The BAA, which is not a trade agreement but a technology agreement, includes technical ability, legal perquisites and influence, education and training of technicians, airworthiness-related laws and business practices, and relevant companies' level of technology for designing and producing planes within the scopes of the agreement. The BAA also means mutual recognition of test results, quality and performance certifications, and the compatibility of specifications.

Since the United States does not approve models of planes designed by countries with which it has not signed BAA, it virtually prevents their export.

A high-level official of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy said: "It usually takes five to seven years to conclude a BAA. The government plans to start negotiations on this agreement this year and conclude it before 2001, when the full-fledged production of mid-sized planes will begin."

Ministry Provides Data on USFK Land Use

SK2009111395 Seoul YONHAP in English 1029 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 20 (YONHAP) — The U.S. Forces Korea [USFK] were using lands totaling 41,700,000 pyong (126,363,000 cubic meters) valued at about 9,500 billion won in South Korea as of the end of last year.

Of the total, 2,380,000 pyong worth 4,260 billion won were located in the downtown areas of Seoul and other major cities across the country.

This was shown in a material provided by the Defense Ministry Wednesday to Rep. Yim Pok-chin of the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) for use in the current parliamentary inspection of administration offices.

The ministry paper said that as a result of U.S. military reduction made under the '90 Nunn-Warner amendment, lands with the combined acreage of 820,000 pyong were returned to Korea by the end of 1994, which have since been occupied by the South Korean forces.

Rep. Yim said that the ministry has been unable to grasp the picture of non-military facilities inside U.S. military installations because they are controlled by the U.S. Forces Korea themselves.

The material further showed that this year's South Korean share (300 million dollars) of the U.S. military Korea expenses breaks down to 140 million dollars in personnel expenses, 60 million dollars in logistics area, 57 million dollars for the expansion of combat facilities, and 43 million dollars in non-combat military construction.

The Korean share represented 0.5 percent of South Korea's gross domestic product (GDP) compared with 0.1 percent for both Japan and Germany.

Seoul Urges Pyongyang To Return Usong Crew

SK2109045395 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0430 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the fact that North Korea had officially stated that it would deal with the crew of the Usong boat, which it kidnapped last May, according to its laws, the ROK Government has strongly requested that North Korea return our fishermen at an early date.

In a news conference held today, Kim Kyong-ung, a spokesman for the National Unification Ministry, said that it was very regrettable that North Korea had captured a civilian fishing boat and killed or injured some fishermen. He urged the North Korean authorities to take measures immediately so that the fishermen can return home.

North 'To Allow' Visa-Free Entry to Najin

SK2109065495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0512 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 21 (YONHAP) — North Korea has decided to allow visa-free entry to the Najin-Sonbong free economic and trade zone by foreigners, including South Koreans, effective this October, reliable sources here said Thursday.

An official involved in the development of the Najin-Sonbong trade zone said Thursday that the decision appears to indicate that the North has completed preparations necessary to open the area to foreigners. Accordingly, those foreigners who have letters of invitation from North Korean authorities will be allowed to visit the Najin-Sonbong free trade zone without visas, the official added.

However, visa-free entry will be limited to foreign visitors arriving by car along the expressway recently opened between Namyang, North Korea and Tumen, Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, China, according to the source. The policy will not apply to foreigners arriving by ship or train.

The limit appears to be an attempt to block North Koreans from coming into contact with foreigners in hopes of maintaining the ruling setup in the North.

In addition, the North Koreans reportedly plan to permit South Korean enterprises to engage in business in North Korea only in the Najin-Sonbong free trade zone.

North Korea has so far delayed the conclusion of a contract establishing a joint venture in the Nampo industrial estate with the Daewoo Business Group, which earlier agreed to put into operation sometime in September.

A Daewoo official disclosed Thursday that they are scheduled to have a meeting with officials of the Samcholli General Corp., Daewoo's partner in the North, in Beijing sometime this month to discuss the venture.

Since the Nampo industrial estate project was approved by the late North Korean President Kim Il-song, the North Korean authorities will probably find it difficult to ignore, the official speculated.

However, even though North Korean hardliners are adamantly opposed to operating in the Nampo industrial estate, which is near Pyongyang, it is yet uncertain if the estate will go into operation anytime soon, according to official sources.

Invites Foreign Investment

SK2009141595 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 20 Sep 95 p 9

[Report by Yi Pong-hyon]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea seems to have "rolled up its sleeves" to invite foreign investment into the Najin-Sonbong region.

North Korea will hold a meeting in Beijing, China on 22 September to introduce investment opportunities in the Najin-Sonbong free economic and trade zone. The meeting will be held to invite investment in earnest when the nuclear problem is solved. Kim Chong-u, chairman of the North Korean Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation, is scheduled to attend this meeting with working officials. This is quite unusual. Approximately 350 ROK and foreign corporations will reportedly participate in the meeting, the biggest ever.

Officials of ROK corporations who are in charge of North-South economic cooperation say: North Korea seems to have "rolled up its sleeves" to invite foreign investment into the Najin-Sonbong region, which had been slow in coming. Proof of this is the fact that Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission, who, as a brother-in-law, has ties with the leadership, has begun to commit himself to this job.

Vice Chairman Kim Chong-u reportedly made an appearance in Beijing on 19 September to attend the Beijing briefing on investments. He doubles as chairman of the North Korean Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation, which is in full charge of inviting investments in the Najin-Sonbong region.

He has so far worked externally as vice chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission but only very rarely as chairman of the North Korean Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation. Therefore, his scheduled attendance at the briefing is rather unusual.

Kim Chong-u disappeared from public view at about the time North Korea's foreign trade organizations were restructured, toward the end of 1994. He has not since been observed to carry out external activities, except when he attended the talks of light-water reactor experts. His name is not found in any of the letters of intent which ROK businessmen exchanged with North Korea late last year and early this year, even though he is an expert on external economic cooperation.

ROK corporations believe Vice Chairman Kim, while refraining from carrying out external activities, must have provided the groundwork for inviting foreign investments, given the fact that North Korea promulgated the external economic contact law, the insurance law, the environmental protection law, foreign investment bank regulations, and other legal mechanisms necessary for foreign investments during his absence from public view.

It is noteworthy that many similar briefings on investment have been arranged. Approximately 50 ROK business leaders are scheduled to visit the Najin-Sonbong region in late October and attend a meeting in which North Korea will introduce investment opportunities.

As CHOSON SINBO, a newspaper affiliated with the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, has reported, North Korea opened a border road linking the Najin-Sonbong region and Hunchun, a Chinese special economic zone, on 4 September and stated that "businessmen who want to invest in the Najin-Sonbong region can freely visit this area without a visa."

The ROK Government has reportedly been examining its policy on North-South economic cooperation in a progressive manner in the belief that North Korea has assumed a positive attitude toward development of the Najin-Sonbong region. For example, the government reportedly plans to flexibly apply the regulations on small-scale test projects and gradually allow investments worth $5 million or more and investments in infrastructure.

Seoul May Ask PRC To Revise North Treaty

SK2109020095 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 21 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Ku Song-chae]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 20 September that the government is positively reviewing a plan to ask that the Chinese side revise the military alliance treaty signed between China and North Korea.

A government official said that "following Russia's declaration on abrogating its military alliance treaty with North Korea, the issue of amending the military alliance treaty between China and North Korea is being discussed in depth within the government." He also revealed that "in the past, the government has notified the Chinese side of its position that the North Korea-PRC military alliance treaty is not beneficial to promoting ROK-PRC relations. The government is also discussing the idea of addressing this issue at the ROK-PRC summit slated for November."

Kong No-myong Meets Lithuania's Landsbergis

SK1809080395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0713 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 18 (YONHAP) — Foreign Minister Kong No-myong Monday met with former president of the supreme council of the Republic of Lithuania Vytautis Landsbergis to discuss bilateral issues, the Foreign Ministry said.

Kong and Landsbergis agreed on the need to enhance bilateral parliamentary-level exchanges in order to promote their relations, the ministry said.

Landsbergis was the head of the Republic of Lithuania in October 1991, when South Korea and the former Soviet block state normalized relations.

A music professor, Landsbergis arrived in Seoul Sunday to attend the opening ceremony of a cultural event in the southwestern city of Kwangju slated for Wednesday.

Government To Increase Contributions to UN

SK2109100695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0619 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 21 (YONHAP) — South Korea plans to increase its contribution to the United Nations from the current rate of 6 million U.S. dollars to nearly 50 million dollars a year, 0.8 percent of the U.N.'s total contributions, according to a Foreign Ministry report submitted to the National Assembly Thursday.

The Foreign Ministry is negotiating with the Finance and Economy Ministry and other budget-related government agencies to increase the country's contribution to the international organization in an effort to help the country play a role commensurate with its power and wealth, the report said.

According to the report, the country's gross national product amounts to 1.4 percent of the world's total GNP, ranking 12th in the world.

Accordingly, the United Nations set 0.8 percent of its total contributions as the country's recommended donation rate, the report said.

The United Nations currently spends about 5-6 billion dollars on a variety of development and social projects for developing countries.

The ministry's efforts to raise the country's contribution rate to the United Nations is in line with its recent efforts to join the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and to help more Koreans receive assignments to various United Nation and other international organization posts, the report said.

President Appoints New Vice Home Minister

SK2109031495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0225 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 21 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam on Thursday appointed Deputy Home Minister Chong Tae-su the new Vice Home Minister.

Chong will succeed Kim Mu-song who has recently been named chief organizer of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's Pusan South-B chapter.

Chong, 57, was born in Chinju, South Kyongsang Province, and has served mo of his career at the Home Ministry.

DLP Appoints Kim Proteges as Chapter Heads

SK2009024795 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Sep 95 p 2

[Article by staff reporter Pak Sung-yong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amid signs that President Kim Yong-sam wants to personally choose candidates for next year's general elections, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] has appointed a number of the President's proteges as local district chapter heads.

Names in the list of candidates, which was announced yesterday, are either close aides of the president or popular TV personalities.

Appointed yesterday were the chairmen of 14 district chapters of the ruling party out of 33 that need new heads.

District chapter chairmen are virtually assured of receiving party tickets for next April's Assembly elections.

According to the list, eight out of the 14 are "presidential" men, who have followed President Kim since he was an opposition leader or those who aligned themselves with him after he became President.

They include Special Presidential Secretary for Political Affairs Pak Kwan-yong who will head the Pusan Tongnae-A chapter; former government administration minister So Sok-chae for Saha-A also in Pusan; Vice Home Minister Kim Mu-song, Pusan Nam-B; Chairman of the Presidential Predicament Committee Kim Kwang-il, Seoul Songpa-A; and Yi Won-pok, Inchon Namdong-B.

Pak, So and Kim Mu-song; are well-known "proteges" of President Kim. And Kim Kwang-il and Yi Won-pok, though they were members of the United People's Party founded by tycoon Chong Chu-yong, also belonged to the now-defunct opposition United Democratic Party led by the Chief Executive.

Among the new loyalist group, former prosecutor general Kim To-on was tapped as chief of the Pusan Kumjong-B district and former vice director of the Agency for National Security Planning Chong Hyong-kun will take charge of the Puk district in Pusan.

They are all alumni of Kyongnam High School, where President Kim graduated, in Pusan whose graduates, critics claim, now monopolize core government posts.

Along with them, Rep. Yun Yong-tak, appointed chief of the Taegu Susong-B district, is also a member of the so-called Minju faction, made up of those loyal to President Kim.

After announcing the list, DLP spokesman Son Hak-kyu said that their chances of winning Assembly seats, their contributions to their communities and their expertise were the deciding factors in choosing them.

But observers said it is the result of President Kim's remarks being transformed into concrete action that he will handpick DLP candidates for next April's National Assembly elections.

They also said the appointees in Seoul and surrounding Kyonggi Province demonstrates Kim's willingness to realize a generational shift in the nation's political leadership.

Maeng Hyong-kyu, an SBS news anchor who is to head the Songpa-B district in Seoul, is in his late 40s as is Yi

Tok-hwa who was named as chief of the Kwangmyong district in Seoul and Rep. Yi Chae-myong for a district in Inchon.

Analyzing the list, observers said the generational change is an important factor in the DLP's naming of new chapter heads in Seoul and Kyonggi-to. Meanwhile, former army chief of staff Yi Chin-sam will take charge of the Puyo district chapter in Chunchongnam-to, where president Kim Chong-pil of the splinter United Liberal Democrats (ULD) is certain to run.

But even party insiders raise doubts about his suitability, citing that he has reportedly been involved in various corruption scandals since the inauguration of the current government.

Along with him, Rep. Choe Yong-han, who is better known by his stage-name Choe Pul-am, was tapped as Seoul Yongdungpo-B chapter head and Kim Kil-hwan, presidential secretary for audit and inspection will head the Yangpyong-Kapyong district.

The remaining 19 chapter heads will be finalized at a meeting of the party's top decision-making Executive Council today, spokesman Son said.

Ruling Party Opposes Amendments to Election Law

SK1809074895 Seoul YONHAP in English
0617 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 18 (YONHAP) — The ruling Democratic Liberal Party opposes any amendments to the election law, including those attempting to increase the number of parliament members as called for by the main opposition National Congress for New Politics.

Emerging from a high-level staff meeting presided over by Chairman Kim Yun-hwan Monday morning, DLP spokesman Son Hak-kyu said that because his party has decided to oppose any revisions to the election law, now that the parliamentary elections are only six months away, it would not promote a revision to the law just so an incumbent president could stump for his party's candidates.

As for the opposition NCNP's call for an increase in the number of parliament members on the proportional representation system, Son remarked that the increase could be met by changing the ratio of those elected directly from electorates to those elected by proportional representation and staying within the fixed number of parliament members, adding, however, that his party is opposed to an increase in the fixed number of lawmakers just to increase the number of proportional representation lawmakers.

Even if the number of proportional representation lawmakers can be increased within the fixed number of lawmakers, it would realistically [be] impossible to change the number of parliamentary districts set by the assembly during its current special session, he said.

As for the opposition NCNP's stance on the incumbent president's electioneering, Son said this cannot be on the agenda for negotiations with the opposition, adding the ruling party's basic position is that it is against any revision to the law at this juncture, as there are only six months before the next general elections.

NCNP Tries Arranging Meeting With President

SK1909041795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0215 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 19 (YONHAP) — The main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) has been holding behind-the-scene contacts recently with close aides of President Kim Yong-sam trying to arrange a meeting between the president and NCNP head Kim Tae-chung, political sources said Tuesday.

However, there has not been any significant progress, according to the sources.

NCNP Spokesman Pak Chae-won said, "It is true that senior officials in our party including Rep. Kim Sang-hyon, chairman of the Guidance Committee, are privately talking with figures in the ruling camp trying to arrange a Kim-Kim meeting...but there has been little progress."

NCNP President Kim Tae-chung has expressed his hope for a one-on- one meeting with President Kim Yong-sam to discuss the current political situation.

Pak said, "Chongwadae [presidential offices] has made its position known that it would be difficult for President Kim to meet only with the NCNP president."

Pak added that if necessary, President Kim could meet with the chiefs of the other opposition parties, individually, as well.

Kim Tae-chung Ponders Plan for Presidential Run

SK1609063995 Seoul YONHAP in English
0234 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 17 (YONHAP) — Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung is seriously considering the possibility of accepting the ruling camp's plan to allow a president's participation in election campaigns.

Pak Chi-won, spokesman for the major opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) said Saturday, "NCNP President Kim Tae-chung seems to be flexible about the idea of allowing a president to support electioneering efforts of ruling party candidates."

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party has been pushing to revise the current integrated election law in a manner that would permit the president to stump for the forthcoming parliamentary polls slated for April.

In a meeting with reporters on Friday, Kim Tae-chung withheld his position on the controversial issue by remarking, "We will have to discuss the matter within the party."

However, Kim did voice objection to the idea of changing the present "small constituency system" to a "medium or large constituency."

Lawmaker Pak Un-tae Postpones Return Home

SK1809034895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 18 (YONHAP) — Opposition lawmaker Pak Un-tae, who was to return Monday night, postponed his return to South Korea for the second time, a political source said Monday.

Pak Chi-won, spokesman for the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) said at a regular briefing that the party does not have any information about when Rep. Pak, who is wanted by the prosecution on criminal charges, will return to South Korea.

"The party could not reach Rep. Pak," the spokesman said, adding, "the party had asked Rep. Pak to return by Sept. 20 to explain his involvement in relation to the charges."

The NCNP spokesman said that party President Kim Tae-chung instructed its members to try and get Rep. Pak to return as soon as possible. "If Rep. Pak does not return by Sept. 20, then the party will have difficulty in dealing with this case," Pak said.

Rep. Pak, who was elected to the National Assembly through the proportional representative system, is currently a member of the opposition Democratic Party technically, but is to join the NCNP led by Kim Tae-chung. Pak is currently staying in Japan after attending a seminar held in the United States earlier this month.

The prosecution is planning to arrest Rep. Pak on charges of blackmail as soon as he returns, as it was confirmed he extorted a total of some 400 million won from about 10 firms by abusing information obtained through his activities as a member of the National Assembly.

Assembly Rejects Bill Asking Lawmaker's Release

SK1809090795 Seoul YONHAP in English 0755 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 18 (YONHAP) — The National Assembly voted down a bill introduced by the opposition in a plenary session held Monday afternoon which called for the release of Rep. Choe Nak-to of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics who was arrested on bribery charges.

The vote tally was 117 for, 157 against, two abstained and two votes were invalid.

At least six lawmakers from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party voted for the bill, revolting against the party's policy, as 163 DLP lawmakers cast ballots in the secret vote.

Four DLP lawmakers, including speaker Hwang Nak-chu and Reps. Choe Hyong-u, An Mu-hyok and Yi Hyon-su, did not participate in the voting session.

Before the vote started, Rep. Han Kwang-ok of the NCNP, in a speech supporting the bill, charged that the lawmaker's arrest just prior to the parliamentary session was intended to oppress the NCNP and other opposition parties, claiming, "This is an anti-democratic act running counter to the spirit of the Constitution and disrespectful of parliamentarianism."

Office Head Arrested for Illegal Electioneering

SK2009032495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0039 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 20 (YONHAP) — The Seoul Metropolitan Police on Wednesday arrested Choe Sun-kil, head of the Nowon Ward Office in Seoul, on charges he violated election laws. He was suspected of having offered 10 million won to his campaigners before the June 27 local elections.

Choe, 57, of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), is the first ward head in the capital to be confined for illegal electioneering.

Police also arrested five of Choe's election campaigners for allegedly accepting 1 to 5 million won in illegal funds from him on similar charges.

Among the five campaigners arrested are Son Kuk-won, 58, chairman of the Seoul Recreational Tennis Federation, Kim Ki-hong, 58, deputy secretary-general of the Nowon ward chapter of the Seoul Taxi Drivers' Association and Yi Pyong-ik, 50, chairman of the Nowon Ward Badminton Association. Cho Yong-cha, 49, chairman of a temple laymen club, and Yi Mi-ok, 40, chairman of the Nowon Ward Mothers Tennis Club.

According to the police, Choe, taking advantage of his post as honorable chairman of the Seoul Recreational Tennis Federation, gave 5 million won to Son, chairman of the tennis federation, on June 23 and instructed him to give the money to Kim, an official of the Taxi Drivers' Association, in order to gain the support of the taxi drivers.

Through Son, Nowon ward office head Choe gave 2 million won each to Yi Pyong-ik and Cho Yong-cha and 1 million won to Yi Mi-ok between June 19 and 21, instructing them to recruit campaigners for him, the police said.

Finance Minister's 'Political Remarks' Noted

SK2009015795 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Sep 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finance and Economy Minister [and Deputy Prime Minister, DPM] Hong Chae-hyong has been quite busy touring his hometown in central Chongju not only as the nation's top economic policy maker, but also as a potential candidate for the forthcoming National Assembly election.

Hong, who is the longest serving Cabinet member under the Kim Yong-sam administration, yesterday gave a lecture on the overall direction of the national economy before businessmen in his hometown. Part of Hong's speech contained "political remarks." He said it is businessmen in central Chungchong-pukto Province who should play a pioneering role in revitalizing the area.

He said, "Our Chungchong region lags behind the rest of the provinces in economic development, and unless we join hands, we cannot catch up with the other regions. I want to make efforts toward the development of this region." It is unusual for the deputy premier to devote a significant part of his speech to the need of developing the Chungchong region.

A ministry spokesman downplayed Hong's visit to his hometown by saying that his speech has been long planned in advance. But he seldom visited such regions as Kwangju, Chonju or Taegu, although he frequented his hometown.

Just weeks ago, Hong met with financiers in his hometown. Soon afterward, the government "curiously" unveiled plans to inject 100 billion won into that area, where several financial scandals, including the ailing Chungbuk Investment Finance Corp., rocked the regional economy. Critics said DPM Hong was "abusing" the state budget for his personal ambition in the election for lawmakers.

Hong has also been busy meeting his Chongju High School alumni. It has become a fait accompli for Hong to run for a lawmaker position. He will either run in his hometown or possibly in the metropolitan Seoul area, sources said.

Construction Ministry Reveals Plans, Budget

SK2109040495 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The construction of additional highways totalling 464.7 kilometers in length will be started at seven locations of the country next year to improve the road transport network.

The Construction and Transportation Ministry said yesterday that 1,899 billion won will be earmarked in the 1996 budget for the new highway construction and other related projects.

The ministry has a plan to lay down a network of expressways crisscrossing the country by the early 2000s, putting any point in the country within 30 minutes of a high-speed road. The ministry estimates that about 20 trillion won will be required for the project.

The highways to be built include three add-ons to existing expressways and four sections of the Chungbu Inland Highways, linking Kangwon-to and Kyongsangpuk-to, that will be completed by the early 2000s.

The four new sections of the Chungbu Inland Highway will link Kangwon-to with Kyongsangpuk-to following a mountain route. They include a 40.2-kilometers road from Chungju to Yoju.

The ministry will begin purchasing land along the approximately 220 kilometers of the projected highway routes. The ministry said that it will attract investment from the private sector on terms to be fixed later.

The add-ons will cover 103.7 kilometers between Tanjin and Sochon on the West Coast Expressway, 42.5 kilometers between Wonju and Hongchon on the Chungang Expressway and 10.4 kilometers from Nowon, northeastern Seoul, to Toegyewon, an intersection on the Seoul Circulation Highway.

Korea is building nine East-West highways and seven north-south ones across the country as part of its much-touted "7x9" project to maximize the efficiency of road transport.

That project is capped by plans for inter-Korean expressways in the event of unification. 7x9 project, that will be completed by the early 2000s.

MOST Announces Space Development Plan

SK2109044395 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 20 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has decided to launch — with a domestic rocket — a medium-sized satellite manufactured locally in 2010. It has planned to set up the Institute for Space Development like the United States' NASA, and to establish a general organization to coordinate space development under the direct supervision of the president or prime minister.

On 19 September, the Ministry of Science and Technology [MOST] announced the "medium- and long-range space development plan" featuring this development of space and held hearings attended by 50 experts.

According to this plan, the government will launch a total of 19 satellites — including five communication and broadcasting satellites, seven multi-purpose practical satellites, and seven science satellites — by 2015 at the cost of a total of 4.7 trillion won. It also decided to completely localize the manufacture of medium-sized satellites such as meteorological and environmental satellites (multi-purpose No. 5 satellite), in 2010.

In the area of projectiles, the government plans to develop rockets for low orbital satellite purposes, while building the site to launch the satellite in the southern area of East Sea [Sea of Japan]. It also decided to begin launching medium-sized satellites of foreign countries.

Government To Give $1 Billion to ADB

SK1909125795 Seoul YONHAP in English 1220 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 19 (YONHAP) — The government has decided to contribute 1,080 million dollars additionally to three international banking institutions by 2012.

The three institutions are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

An official at the Finance and Economy Ministry said Tuesday the decision is part of the government policy to further uplift the country's credibility and standing in the world community and to bolster relations with low-income developing countries.

The bulk of the planned additional contribution, 1,075,135,000 dollars, will go to the ADB in the next six years; 13,280,000 dollars to the IMF by 2012; and 300,000 dollars to the EBRD's technical cooperation fund, the official said.

Government To Export More Fruit to Taiwan

SK2109100195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0516 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 21 (YONHAP) — Seoul and Taipei recently agreed to increase South Korea's apple and pear export quotas to Taiwan by 10 percent for one year starting in October, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

During a three-day trade officials meeting held in Taiwan from Monday to Wednesday, the two sides agreed to increase South Korea's export quota of apples and pears to 10,450 tons and 2,200 tons, respectively, the spokesman said.

South Korea agreed to import 16,000 tons of bananas, 750 tons of litchi, 1,000 tons of ponkan, 5,500 tons of onions and 3,000 tons of garlic during the trade increase period which starts in October, the spokesman said.

The two also agreed to lower the tariff on pears exported to Taiwan to 20 percent from the current 25 percent, while reducing tariffs on mackerel to 35 percent by 2001.

The two sides, however, failed to set a quota for South Korean exports of automobiles to Taiwan, according to the spokesman.

In 1994, South Korea exported 2.7 billion dollars worth of goods to the island nation, while importing 1.8 billion dollars.

Meanwhile, the country's exports to Taiwan reached 2.4 billion dollars during the first eight months this year and imports were recorded at 1.6 billion dollars.

'Multimedia City' Planned for Area Near Seoul

SK2109042395 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Sep 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A "multimedia city" intended to help foster the domestic multimedia industry will be built near Seoul by the year 2000, the Ministry of Information and Communication [MIC] said yesterday.

Announcing details of the government's multimedia-industry development plans, the ministry said that the multimedia industrial park will be constructed on a site covering about 1.65 million sq. meters near the capital city at a cost of 800 billion won.

"The multimedia city will be distinguished from the existing industrial complexes in many aspects," said a ministry spokesman.

"The city will be designed as a self-sufficient community which has all three functions — industrial, academic and housing facilities," the spokesman said.

He said an information & telecommunications graduate school, government-run support agencies as well as software and hardware manufacturing facilities will be housed at the city. The ministry will also construct large-scale buildings in the multimedia city in a bid to offer office space to financially strapped small-size software developers. Financial and tax favors will be offered to the promising software developers.

Expenses for the construction of the city, which will start next year, will be jointly shared by the government and the private sector.

"In deciding on the site for the multimedia city, the MIC will hold close consultations with the Ministry of Construction and Transportation to comply with the long-term capital development plan," he said, adding that the site will be decided by year-end.

He stressed that the MIC is still determined to pump in nearly 5.34 trillion won ($6.93 billion) by 2010 to intensively foster the domestic multimedia industry.

Multimedia, which will eventually integrate characters, voices, music, graphics, pictures, animation and images into one media, is defined as the trend of the future.

The government will finance the establishment of various industrial associations. "A computer game industry association, a multimedia information center, and a multimedia research center are under study," the spokesman said.

The MIC will also select about 30 promising small and medium-size multimedia companies to offer extensive financial assistance, while introducing competition among researchers at state-run labs.

The MIC also considers easing regulations in order to lead the private sector to expand investment in the multimedia sector.

"A variety of multimedia services such as video conference, tele- education, electronic museum, real-estate info service, and remote medical diagnostic system will be gradually expanded here," the spokesman said.

"The expansion is expected to further stimulate the public demand for multimedia services," he said.

Hyundai Electronics To Expand HDD Network

SK2109043295 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Sep 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hyundai Electronics Industry Co. (HEI) yesterday disclosed an ambitious plan to emerge as one of the world's top-notch suppliers of computer hard disk drive (HDD).

Hyundai's long-term plan calls for setting up global network interlinking production bases in China and Thailand, component suppliers in Singapore and Hong Kong, a R&D base in the United States and headquarters in Korea.

The envisioned global network is supposed to catapult Hyundai into the rank of the world's second-largest HDD supplier by 2000 and ultimately the world's No. 1 post by 2005.

To achieve this goal, the company intends to invest up to $1 billion by 2000 and generate an annual sales turnover of $5 billion from the HDD business alone.

Hyundai has already secured some of the components of the network. In 1993, it purchased 40 percent of the shares of Maxtor of the United States for $150 million. Then, the American company was the world's fifth-largest HDD supplier.

Under Hyundai's new business plan, Maxtor will concentrate on R&D and marketing and production of high-end HDDs.

Hyundai will also soon take over Maxtor's plants in Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong. The takeover will cost about $100 million, according to a company official.

The Singaporean operation will serve as procurement headquarters as well as production plant for high-end products, while the plant in Thailand, along with the one to be built in China, will focus on assembly of low-end products.

Hyundai will begin construction of the projected plant in Dalian, northeastern China, early next year for completion one year later. The plant is planned to turn out 8 million HDDs a year in 2000, with sales reaching $1.6 billion.

In Korea, Hyundai took over last April a production plant from a local firm to churn out high-end products. From next year, it will produce 4 million HDDs a year and export all of them to Maxtor.

This whole global network will be managed by the storage division of the electronics company which is also deeply committed to the semiconductor business.

According to a Hyundai official, the world HDD demand is expected to grow by 20 percent a year in the coming years with the spread of personal computers. The demand projection for this year is about $15 billion and is expected to grow to $22 billion in 1997.

As in other high-tech businesses, risk is high in the HDD industry because of fierce price competition and rapid technological progress.

The key to success in this line of business is good timing in product development and continuous cost-cutting efforts.

Hyundai appears to be relying heavily on Maxtor's technical expertise for which it has already paid a high price. Last year, the American firm posted a loss of $82 million on a yearly turnover of about $900 million. This year, its performance has been improving but the firm is still losing money, according to a Hyundai official.

Growing Number of Foreign Workers Abandon Jobs

SK2009062895 Seoul YONHAP in English
0246 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 20 (YONHAP) — The number of foreign workers who deserted their jobs after entering South Korea as "industrial trainees" is increasing, the Korean Federation of Small Business (KFSB) said Wednesday.

According to the KFSB report for parliamentary inspection, 9,371 foreign workers, about 33.4 percent, of the total 27,981 industrial trainees illegally deserted their assigned employers as of the end of last August.

The KFSB, with the government's authorization, has been bringing foreign workers into South Korea as "industrial trainees" since last year and distributed them to small businesses across the country in an effort to solve their manpower shortage problems.

At the end of last February, about 20.9 percent of all industrial trainees deserted their jobs, but the rate rapidly increased to 25 percent by the end of April.

Chinese accounted for 4,161 or 44.4 percent of the total number who abandoned their jobs but remained in the country, followed by Filipinos with 1,346, Vietnamese with 1,137, Myanmarians [Burmese] with 660 and Bangladeshis with 524.

Woman Arrested for Giving Map to North Agent

SK1809111295 Seoul YONHAP in English
1008 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 18 (YONHAP) — A woman who had provided a Korean map to a North Korean agent in Japan was arrested by the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) Monday on charges of violating the National Security Law.

A prosecution source said Ms. Cho Se-hwa, 36, of Sunchon, South Cholla Province, was suspected of having provided a Korean map worth 2,500 won to the agent after she received from him 400,000 yen.

Cho is said to have become acquainted with the agent, Kim Chung-kon, 54, formerly editor of the Kuwol Publishing House, at bars in Tokyo.

Kim asked her for a Korean map and a map of the Sunchon area giving her 400,000 yen in November 1991, and she obtained a Korean map in Seoul and handed it to the agent in January the following year, the source said.

Burma

Border Trade Opened With Bangladesh in Maungtaw

BK2109084795 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 8 Sep 95 pp 12, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Yangon [Rangoon], 7 Sept — Minister for Trade Lt-Gen Tun Kyi and Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung, together with Minister of Fisheries and Livestock Mr Abdullah Al Noman of Bangladesh, attended opening of Myanmar [Burma]-Bangladesh border trade on 5 September. [passage omitted]

Minister of Fisheries and Livestock Mr Abdullah Al Noman and officials were welcomed at Maungtaw on 5 September afternoon by Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Kyi and Brig-Gen Maung Maung, Ambassador of Bangladesh Mr Chaudhury Khaliquzzaman, Consul Mr AKM Shafi and officials.

Border trade opening ceremony at Thirimingala Hall was attended by Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Kyi and Brig-Gen Maung Maung, Commander Brig-Gen Aung Htwe, Bangladesh Minister Mr Abdullah Al Noman, the Ambassador, the Consul, No 1 Base Tactical Operations Commander Col Aung Myint, Buthidaung District Law and Order Restoration Council Chairman Lt-Col Ohn Myint, Director-General U Kyaw Myint, other officials and USDA [Union Solidarity and Development Association] members.

Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Kyi and Mr Abdullah Al Noman formally opened the checkpoint for border trade.

Minister Lt-Gen Tun Kyi expressed delight and honour for the successful opening of border trade between the two countries and said benefits will accrue from border trade to both countries and goodwill relations between the two neighbours will be further strengthened.

Problems, if any, will be solved by the Border Trade Supervisory Committee, he said, adding Myanmar has also opened border trade with China and India.

Mr Abdullah Al Noman also addressed the ceremony.

The two ministers exchanged commemorative gifts.

Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Kyi and Brig-Gen Maung Maung, together with the guest minister, also attended another ceremony to open Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade checkpoint at Teknaf, Bangladesh.

Minister Lt-Gen Tun Kyi, Minister Abdullah Al Noman and Minister of Commerce Mr M Shamsul Islam addressed the ceremony. The ministers and party then left for Cox's Bazaar.

Shan Leaders Offer To Share Resources With UN

BK2109042995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Sep 95 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Shan State Restoration Council and its military arm, the Muang Tai Army, have called on the United Nations to oversee the eradication of opium production in the northeast of Burma which borders Thailand.

They expressed their readiness to place all their troops and resources at the UN's disposal, and even to work with the Rangoon military junta which it has been fighting for 37 years, or any other government.

The request is the first major political move since a new 12-member Central Executive Committee was formed on August 12, following intense leadership infighting which saw drug kingpin Khun Sa step down.

Khun Sa, whose opium production supplies 70 per cent of the drug on the United States market which made him Washington's most wanted criminal, was increasingly seen as an obstacle for the Shan people's international support in their long struggle for freedom and self-determination.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, dated September 12, a copy of which was obtained by the BANGKOK POST, Zao Gunjade, the new chairman of the Central Executive Committee said:

"We hope the change in the Shan leadership and the policies receives the approval of the international community and yourself.

"We humbly appeal to you for your assistance in restoring peace, unification, democracy and human rights in Burma and in the timely elimination of the drug problem.

"We are ready to place all our men and resources at your disposal and supervision, even if it should mean we will have to cooperate with the present government of 'Myanmar' [Burma] or any other government.

"The Central Executive Committee would also place itself under the direction of any international agency or task force appointed by you."

A copy of the new political line was also attached to the letter to the UN chief, in which the Shan State clearly set out its target for full autonomy and a new union under a united central government based on equal status and rights of all constituent states.

Other elements in the political line is a democratic system of government, full enjoyment of human rights by the people, rule of law, political settlement of all existing political issues, and unity and peace of and for the people of all races.

"The word Shan is provisionally used to denote the citizens of Shan State without discrimination as to race, social status, culture or religion."

The new political line was drawn up on September 11.

Aung San Suu Kyi Agrees To Adhere to Agreement

BK2009095695 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 20 Sep 95

["Independent report" from Shan Herald Agency News; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's most popular politician, had agreed to adhere to the Agreement of Panglong.

According to reliable quarters, Ms Suu Kyi had invited leaders of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy on 16 August to her house and said that she accepted the terms of historic treaty which was signed by her late father General Aung San at the nationalities conference held by the Shans in Panglong, a small southern Shan town [on 12 February 1947, which is now known as Union Day]. According to the treaty, Aung San promised full autonomy both in political and financial affairs, human rights and democracy. They were never realized after his assassination [on 19 July 1947]. In 1952, Burmese forces under General Ne Win occupied the Shan State and since then talks of the terms of the treaty became tantamount to treason. It led to uprisings all over Shan State and rapidly spread to all other non-Burman ethnic nationals.

Aung San Suu Kyi's speech to the SNLD (Shan Nationalities League for Democracy) leaders was obviously designed to ease the tensions and pave the way for a new union. Many Burmans and non-Burmans alike welcomed it as a sign of change from the long standing SLORC stand on the non-Burman issue. Some however doubt whether she could convince the generals to give up their hold on the states which are still seething with resentment despite ceasefire agreements with the armed ethnic groups.

She also told her visitors that the 1947 Constitution [written after the Panglong Agreement before Burma gained independence from Britain on 4 January 1948] which contains the controversial right of secession for the states must be amended 'in order to meet today's needs'. While many refrain from contradicting the lady who has been worldwidely regarded as Burma's only future, one Shan in Germany did not hesitate to note dryly: Even Ethiopia considered as the backwater of Africa, has ratified its constitution recognizing the right of the states to secede from the union. Trying to deprive the right, in my opinion, would only serve to be counter productive. In today's world, there is only one way to prevent disintegration of existing so-called nations. And that is to share and share alike the rights in existence including the right of self determination.

Fate of Political Prisoners Reported

BK1709160195 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 15 Sep 95

["Press release" issued by the All Burma Students' Democratic Front on 15 September; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Regarding the Aung San Suu Kyi's assistance to the political prisoners last month, a Rangoon resident said that all assistance to the political prisoners contributed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were seized by the prison authorities at the prisons according to the order from the superior. It was first allowed by the Col. [Colonel] Kyaw Win, Deputy military Intelligence chief of the Slorc [State Law and Order Restoration Council, who passed the oral message of Gen. [General] Than Swe for unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on July 10 and frequently visited her residence since then, he added.

She provided the assistance to the poor family members of the political prisoners, particularly, 5000 kyat [Burmese currency] each to the family members of the political prisoners who died in the prisons while serving their sentences.

Family members of the following three prisoners have been well received the assistance, he confirmed.

1. U Tin Maung Win, 51 years, MP of NLD [member of Parliament of the National League of Democracy; action was taken against him on 21.11.90 under section 212(I) and 124 of the penal code for his involvement in attempting to form a parallel government; 18.1.91 Insein Prison

2. U Thawka, 62 years, former Major in Burma Navy and famous author; sentenced to 20 years imprisonment on 5.11.89 under section 5(a) and (b) of the 1950 emergency act for organizing and exhorting the Tatmadaw [Defense Services] personnel from the Navy to dissociate from the combined armed forces; 11.6.91 Insein Jail

3. U Maung Ko, 50 years, a member of the NLD Hqs detained for his involvement in attempting to form a parallel government; 9.11.90 Insein Jail

OTHERS DIED IN THE PRISONS (SLORC presentation to UN special rapporteur Mr.Yozo

Yokota in November, 1994) 1. U Zaw Ti Ka, 60 years, Buddhist monk, sentenced to three years imprisonment on Feb 8 under section 5(j) of the 1950 emergency act and under section 295 of the penal code for involvement in a strike organized by the monks; 18.11.92 Insein Prison hospital

2. Khin Maung Myint, 64 years, sentenced to 10 years imprisonment on 6.11.89 under section(5) of the 1950 Emergency Act and section 17 of the 1908 Unlawful Association Act; involvement in under ground movement of the BCP [Burmese Communist Party]; 16.2.93

3. Kyaw Myo Thant, alias Japan Gyi, 25 years; a member of DPNS [Democratic Party for New Society], sentenced to one year imprisonment under section 505 (b) of the penal code on 7.11.89 for distributing leaflets; 20.5.90 Ma-ubin Prison

4. Sow Win, 72 years, sentenced to 20 imprisonment on 6.11.89 under section 5(j) of the Emergency Act for involvement in the underground movement of BCP; 3.5.91, Insein Prison

5. Nyo Win, 58 years, charged on 18.7.89 under section 19(a) of the Unlawful Association Act for circulating disinformation and distributing leaflets; 8.3.91, Insein Prison

6. Khin Maung, alias Bo Set Yaung, sentenced on 2.11.89 to five years imprisonment under section 5 (j) of the 1950 Emergency Act and section 17 of the 1908 Unlawful Association Act for involvement in the underground movement of BCP; 7.3.90, Insein Prison hosptial

7. Man Dar Weit, 55 years, sentenced to eight years imprisonment on 27.11.89 under section 17(2) of the 1908 Unlawful Association Act for seeking assistance from KNU (Karen National Union) insurgents, 12.7.92

8. Mohammed Ilyas, alias Maung Nyo, detained for having laid explosive mines near the Golf club at Maungdaw, 23.6.92, Maungdaw jail

OTHERS NOT PRESENTED BY THE SLORC AT MR. YOZO YOKOTA'S VISIT 1. U Sein Win, 54 years, lived in Thongwa township in Rangoon, January 1991

2. U Thar Htun, 82 years, a well-known history expert in Arakan and a member of ALD (Arakan League for Democracy) was arrested on 7.5.90 and sentenced to three years imprisonment under section 5 (j) of the 1950 Emergency Act; August 1990

3. Ko Kyaw Win, 30 years, arrested in June, 1989 and was detained and sentenced; early 1990, Mandalay Prison

4. Ko Than Win, a member of NLD at Ma-ubin township was arrested and detained at Tharrawaddy; unknown

5. U David, 58 years, arrested in 1988, 2.8.92

6. U Aye Lwin, 38 years, sentenced to death penalty under fighting against the Thaingangyun police station; December 1992, Insein Prison

7. Maung Aing Ko, 31 years, Workers College Union, 13.10.93, Thayet Prison

9. [number as received] Ko Soe Htay, 19 years, a member of NLD was arrested on 12.4.91; 16.4.91

10. Ko Kyaw Soe, 22 years, arrested in January 1989; two days after the arrest

11.Ko Zaw Win Htun, 21 years (4th year, Physics), university student was arrested on 2.10.88; 30.12.88

12. Ko Ne Win Aung, 22 years, fled to Thai border and returned Burma in 1988 under Slorc amnesty and arrested a few days later in Rangoon; a few days after the arrest in Insein Prison

13. Ko Hernit, 21 years; a Muslim, fled to Thai border and returned under the Slorc's amnesty, was arrested; Insein Prison

14. Ko Aung Moe, fled to Thai border and returned under the Slorc's amnesty and was arrested; a few days after the arrest

[Signed] Information Department

ALL BURMA STUDENT'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT [ABSDF]

8888 camps

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister: Arrests Not Related to Political Party

BK2109132695 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Sep 95 p 12

[Report by Joniston Bangkual]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kota Kinabalu, Tues — Sabah Umno [United Malays National Organization] chief Datuk Salleh Tun Said said today the arrest of two party leaders under the Internal Security Act (ISA) has nothing to do with the party.

He said the police had confirmed that the arrests of Jabar Khan Napi alias Yasser Arafat and Andi Bandy Pilo as well as two others, Sadali Mohamad Ali and Jibol

Junggi, were for alleged involvement in the issuance of fake identity cards.

The Chief Minister said the four were arrested for allegedly indulging in activities detrimental to national security and such involvement of party members regardless of their status would not be condoned.

Jabar is vice-chairman of the Tanjong Aru Umno division while Bandy is deputy head of the Tawau Umno division.

"The arrests show that the police are serious in tackling the rampant existence of forged identity cards in the State," he said when approached by reporters after opening an economic seminar here.

Salleh said the State Government would co-operate with the police and other related authorities in whatever way to stop the issuance of fake identity cards in Sabah.

Jabar, 50, is also the Sabah Fish Marketing (Safma) executive chairman.

Sadali,45, is a carpet dealer and Jibol, 65, is unemployed.

State police chief Deputy Commissioner Datuk Malzan Shaari said they were arrested under Section 73 (1) of the ISA for indulging in activities detrimental to national security. [passage omitted]

Rivalry Rumors for Top Ruling Party Posts Noted

BK2109103795 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 21 Sep 95

["Comment" by V.K. Chin: "A United UMNO is Essential for a Strong Barisan"—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The announcement by UMNO [United Malays National Organization] president Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed that there would be no contest for the party's two top posts should put to rest the rumours that he would be challenged by his deputy Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim in next year's election.

At present, there are many people, both inside and outside Umno, who believe that there is intense rivalry between the two leaders and that they do not get on well.

The two leaders have of course been denying that but then some people are just hard to convince. It is also unlikely that the latest announcement will put the matter entirely to rest.

As far as UMNO is concerned, the latest statement will have little impact on its activities nor will members believe that this is a change in policy in next year's party election.

Even the issue of democracy is not at stake as the party leadership has made it much more difficult for anyone, except someone of substance, to be nominated for either position.

This decision has been made sometime back and it has already been accepted by the members. The main reason is that they do not want the party to be made use of by a small group just to embarrass the incumbents and to create adverse publicity for UMNO.

No party, least of all a dominant organisation like UMNO, can afford to be distracted in the serious business of electing its officials. No one interested in the party's welfare will wish to subject it to such ridicule.

However, sometimes ambitions can make a person do silly things. A challenge for a top post can only come from the No. 2 who may wish to move up for at least two reasons. The first is that there is a wide body of opinion among the rank and file that the leader is no longer effective and is in fact overstaying his welcome. The second is that the challenger feels that the incumbent is making moves to get rid of his deputy.

Among the Barisan Nasional [National Front] component parties, it is normal that the deputy president should take over the top post should something untoward happen to the leader.

While attempts have been made in the past to try to topple the incumbents, these have largely been unsuccessful and such challengers had left the party eventually.

As the party whose president and deputy president are also the prime minister and deputy prime minister, there is of course a greater intensity for aspiring members to be as near the top as possible.

But it can be quite safe to say that following Tuesday's supreme council decision, Dr. Mahathir and Anwar will be returned unopposed in the party election scheduled for November next year. The Barisan can only be strong and stable so long as there is unity in UMNO. A split UMNO will only lead to political uncertainty and instability.

UMNO members should bear this in mind before they go for broke in their campaign to vie for key party posts.

Singapore

U.S. Admiral on PRC Ties, U.S. Commitment

BK2109101795 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Felix Soh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States had a commitment to stay the course in the Asia-Pacific and there would be no reduction of its military presence in the region, said the United States second-highest ranking military officer yesterday.

The Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Owens, also told the Straits Times that it was the "very strong" hope of the US that its relationship with China would get back on track.

Adm [Admiral] Owens, 54, is on an Asian tour to discuss the US commitment to the region aand military issues of mutual concern as well as to develop personal relations with senior civilians and military officials.

He arrived in Singapore from Jakarta on Tuesday for a two-day official visit. His next stop is South Korea. It is his second trip to Asia this year.

Yesterday, he called on Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Dr Tony Tan, Acting Minister for the Environment and Senior Minister of State for Defence, Rear-Admiral (NS) Teo Chee Hean and Chief of Defence Force, Major-General [Maj-Gen] Bey Soo Khiang. Last night, Adm Owens, who directed the post-Cold War restructuring of the US Navy, was hosted to a dinner in his honor by Maj-Gen Bey.

In yesterday's Straits Times interview, he denied the perception that US attention has been diverted lately to Bosnia and the Persian Gulf. "The view in Washington is that Southeast Asia and the Pacific are of enormous importance not only to the US, but to the stability and security of the region.

"We're commited to engagement in this region, to the continued presence of 100,000 US troops, carrier battle groups and marines.

"We are always discussing the distribution of US forces...but it is certain the troop strength in the Asia-Pacific will not decrease. We have a commitment to stay the course because our military presence here is good for the US and for the countries in the region," he added.

He stressed: "There is no diminution of our attention to Southeast Asia."

The proof of this, he pointed out, was in the more substantive and meaningful military relationships the US was developing with regional countries.

He cited US-Singapore defence ties as an example of this and mentioned some developments:

— New military-to-military talks at the end of next month.

— Training "fairly soon" for heavy-lift Chinook helicopters which the Republic of Singapore Air Force [RSAF] has acquired.

— The continuing training of F-16 pilots of the RSAF in Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, which he described as "enormously successful".

— Participation in a number of land exercises, including one involving Singapore Armed Forces Guardsmen and US Marines in Guam.

— More and longer naval exercises between the Republic of Singapore Navy and the Pacific fleet.

On the US-China ties, which had hit a rocky patch, Adm Owens said: "It is our very strong hope that we will get back on track with our relationship with China, particularly our military-to-military ties."

Discusses Bilateral Military Ties

BK2009132695 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1300 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior Singapore and U.S. military officials will be meeting at the end of the month to discuss more military exchanges and training programs between the two armed forces.

In an interview with News Five, the vice chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Owens, said this will help plant a strategic relationship between both countries.

He added the U.S. would also consider any request for submarine training from Singapore though the republic has yet to make a formal request.

Admiral Owens stressed that the U.S. does not expect any new threats to emerge in the Southeast Asian region.

Goh Discusses Cooperation With Indonesia

BK2109113595 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1000 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Singapore and Indonesia have a stake in each other's economic development and prosperity. Making the point, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong stressed that both countries can achieve more by marrying their complementary strength rather than working alone.

Mr. Goh also noted that over the years the two countries have set up an excellent wave of economic linkages. He pointed to the joint cooperation in industrial and tourism projects in Batam and Bintan and in other Indonesian provinces.

Speaking at the opening of the Indonesia-Singapore exhibition, Mr. Goh explained that the cooperative efforts are the results of the warm friendship and trust between the two countries.

Paying tribute to the Indonesian leader, Mr. Goh said President Suharto has transformed Indonesia into a dynamic emerging economy with an everage growth rate of over 6 percent a year. The prime minister also added that Indonesia has taken bold initiative to encourage free trade and free flow of investments regionally and internationally.

He pointed out that Indonesia's strong leadership was instrumental in securing the historic Bogor Declaration to make free trade possible within APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] by the year 2020.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Call 1998 Elections 'Gimmick'

BK2109111395 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Sep 95

["Declaration of the spokesman of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation" on 20 September; place not given — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The spokesman of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] issues this declaration to denounce and expose the gimmick of holding deceitful elections to maintain the traitorous, nation-selling, two-headed regime, the cheap lackeys of communist Vietnam, and the alliance and mass murderers of the Cambodian nation and people:

I. The traitorous, nation-selling, two-headed, out-and-out lackeys of communist Vietnam and the alliance have already been trumpeting the plan to hold elections in 1998. Hun Sen proclaimed that the elections in 1998 are to maintain the two heads as they are now, while Ranariddh—puppet of the communist Vietnamese puppets— clownishly echoed what Hun Sen said: Let us maintain the two heads! Let us maintain the two heads!

II. In ballyhooing this misleading election child's play at the behest of communist Vietnam, these hungry ghosts and voracious vultures have dulled nobody's perception. What elections can there be in this country of thieves of the two heads? What elections can there be in such a fascist country of the two heads? What elections can there be under such a dictatorial regime of communist Vietnam? What elections can there be in this foodless, drinkless country of the two heads, whose only concern is to sell out and pillage the country and who care about nothing but making war with no end in sight?

III. The whole world has recognized that the Paris agreement was sabotaged by communist Vietnam, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], and the alliance when they organized the fascist elections under the communist Vietnamese regime and under the bayonets and gun barrels of communist Vietnam. Immediately after the UNTAC elections, communist Vietnam staged a coup d'etat to prematurely conceive this extremely jinxed, two-headed, and three-eyed monster. Now, under this regime of the two heads, those who wear the communist Vietnamese collars continue to wield 100 percent monopolistic, dictatorial, and fascist powers from top to bottom and in all fields and sectors. What right do the people have to express their aspirations? There will only be elections more fascist than at the time of UNTAC. As a result:

1. They will continue to maintain the two heads. These two heads are two-headed only in form. In reality, they are single-headed; that is, they are a purely communist Vietnamese regime.

2. Communist Vietnam will continue to have exclusive say.
3. The war of communist Vietnam will continue.
4. More Vietnamese nationals will engulf and gobble up Cambodia.
5. Communist Vietnam will continue to shear off large chunks and parts of Cambodian territory.
6. The policy of impoverishing and starving the Cambodian people will continue.
7. The policy of pillage will continue. The communist Vietnamese puppet authorities, Vietnam, and the villainous foreigners will continue to strip the country to the core. This explains why, by rote, the people keep calling Cambodia a country of thieves.

IV. Regarding this issue of elections in 1998, the PGNUNS has the following to declare in advance to the people at home and abroad and to the conscience of the entire nation: Should we allow the two-headed regime to continue massacring the Cambodian nation and people? Or, should we terminate this regime in order to: resolve the problem of communist Vietnam's war; bring about national reconciliation, national unity, and peace; end the problem of famine to prevent the people from dying of hunger; solve all other national and social problems; and enable the elections of 1998 to be held in a democratic and liberal way, while respecting the people's right to self-determination and not to be misled as they were under the dictatorial and fascist regime of communist Vietnam.

The situation clearly shows that our nation and people have no other choice but to wage a struggle. The enemy is extremely fascist. He closes all doors to us. The only way out is to wage the struggle everywhere, be it in the countryside or in Phnom Penn and abroad. We must struggle in all fields and sectors and in all forms in order to advance toward terminating the two-headed regime and terminating the war of communist Vietnam. Through that, we also aim at achieving genuine national reconciliation, national concord, national unity, and peace under a democratic, liberal, multiparty, and truly parliamentarian regime with a clear division of powers between the legislative, executive, and judiciary.

[Dated] 20 September 1995

[Signed] PGNUNS spokesman

Indonesia

U.S. Admiral 'Optimistic' Over Aid Resumption

BK2109093695 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 20 Sep 95 pp 1,15

[Unattributed report: "The Deputy Chief of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Optimistic Over Resumption of IMET Assistance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, 20 Sep—Admiral William T. Owens, deputy chief of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, expressed optimism that the U.S. Government's IMET (International Military Education and Training) program for the ABRI [Armed Forces of Indonesia] will be reinstated, after being frozen because of the 12 November 1991 Dili incident.

Speaking to reporters after being received by Indonesian Armed Forces Chief Feisal Tanjung at Bina Graha Palace on 19 September, Owens said: "We realize that the program is an important source of bilateral cooperation. We will monitor all future developments. As I have said earlier, I feel optimistic that the program will run smoothly."

Nonetheless, he was hopeful that the issue will be satisfactorily resolved during the ongoing debate in the U.S. Congress. The Clinton administration and all sectors of the U.S. Armed Forces fully support the reinstatement of funds for the IMET.

The deputy chief of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said: "Unquestionably, we are hoping that the program can be continued. Personally, I am committed to do all that I possibly can in the Congress and in the Senate in an effort to support the reinstatement of the IMET program for Indonesia."

Tanjung had said previously that there was an indication that the IMET program could probably be reinstated. According to Owens, however, the United States had also considered conducting a joint military exercise. The reinstatement of the program would probably be carried out in stages, and the beginning could be a bit sluggish. It is evident that technical problems—namely the ABRI's desire to acquire U.S.-made weapons—are bound to emerge, but such problems could speedily be resolved.

Evidently, the United States regards the friendship between the armed forces of the two countries to be of primary importance. Therefore, the most important and effective element in strengthening the bond of friendship between the two armed forces is in the form of personal relations between the generals, soldiers, and admirals. Their dedication is needed to further foster such relations.

IMET Assistance

IMET assistance to Indonesia was dropped by the United States during its 1993 fiscal year, after the incident that is also known as the Dili Incident occurred in East Timor at the end of 1991. The last IMET assistance that Indonesia received (in 1992) was in the amount of U.S.$2.4 million. The United States did not provide any IMET assistance to Indonesia during its 1994 fiscal year.

The issue of the IMET program for Indonesia reemerged in 1994 when the U.S. Congress was debating the country's 1995 draft budget. The House of Representatives agreed then that the U.S. Government would not provide any IMET assistance. Indonesia was also barred from participating in any U.S. military education programs, even when using its own funds. As acknowledged, the U.S. Congress must approve any form of financial or military assistance before it is given to any country outside NATO. The U.S. Congress must also approve any assistance that is to be given to "friendly" countries, such as Israel and Egypt.

The U.S. Senate said that Indonesia should not be afforded IMET assistance and banned it from purchasing U.S.-made, hand-held weapons. A more pragmatic decision was made during the 1995 fiscal year debate. The decision was that Indonesia would not be provided with IMET assistance, and it would also be banned from purchasing U.S.-made, hand-held weapons. Indonesia was, however, allowed to participate in U.S. military education programs only by using its own funds.

Furthermore, as was previously reported, while making his proposal to the Senate Foreign Operations Appropriation Committee earlier this year, Winston Lord, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, called for the resumption of U.S. military assistance to Indonesia. The resumption of assistance would also increase the amount of IMET assistance for the upcoming 1996 fiscal year to U.S.$5.2 million.

President Clinton also announced a special draft budget for foreign assistance recently, which amounted to U.S.$10.5 billion. Out of that amount, a sum of U.S.$280 million would be allocated for the East Asia and Pacific region countries. Lord said then: "This is a very small amount, which only constitutes about 2 2/3 percent of the huge amount of funds."

Addressing the U.S. Armed Forces Senate Commission in Washington, Adm. Richard Macke also viewed the importance of resuming IMET assistance to Indonesia. Moreover, Owens, who spoke in a personal capacity during his first visit to Indonesia in March 1995, expressed optimism that IMET assistance to the ABRI would probably be resumed.

Newspapers Report on Visit by U.S. Admiral Owens

BK2009074195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Two Indonesian-language dailies carry reports on 20 September on the visit to Indonesia by Admiral William Owens, deputy chief of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his meeting with President Suharto in Jakarta on 19 September.

Jakarta SUARA KARYA carries a 400-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 entitled: "The United States Wants To Upgrade Military Cooperation With Indonesia." The report says that Adm. Owens expressed the U.S. desire to upgrade military cooperation with Indonesia following his talks with President Suharto at the Bina Graha presidential office.

The report says: "Adm. Owens hopes that talks will be held between the U.S. armed forces and ABRI [Armed Forces of Republic of Indonesia] in November, when ABRI Commander General Feisal Tanjung will send a delegation to Honolulu to hold talks with the U.S. Pacific Command, represented by Gen. Martin Steel and Adm. Owens. Gen. Steel, on behalf of the U.S. Pacific Command, will follow up on the new initiative so the two sides can carry out their cooperation program. Regular talks can be held between the two armed forces; the venue can alternate between the United States and Indonesia."

The report also cites Adm. Owens' news briefing on his talks with President Suharto, during which he discussed several issues, including Indonesia's role in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Spratlys conflict, and the Bosnia issue. The report also quotes Adm. Owens' remarks, cited in referent item, when reporters asked him about the possible sale of F-16's to Indonesia.

Jakarta MERDEKA carries a 300-word report on page 10 entitled: "U.S. Deputy Armed Forces Commander Says: I Am Not Here as a Salesman." The report begins by saying that the Clinton administration and the U.S. armed forces fully support the resumption of the military education program for ABRI officers in the United States. The report notes: "Adm. Owens hopes that the issue of the International Military Education and Training (IMET) for ABRI officers — currently under deliberation by the U.S. Congress — can be settled satisfactorily."

The report also quotes Adm. Owens as saying that the Pentagon has plenty of opportunities to sell arms to many countries in the world, but that he is not visiting Indonesia as a salesman. The report quotes the admiral as saying: "I have come to Indonesia to renew my friendship with my friend Gen. Feisal Tanjung and other ABRI officers." The report cites Gen. Feisal's positive response to questions about Indonesia's interest in buying F-16's from the United States.

Armed Forces Commander Views U.S. F-16 Sale

BK2109033995 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 21 Sep 95 p 11

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta — A U.S. F-16 briefing team will soon visit Jakarta. This was disclosed by ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] Commander General Feisal Tanjung at a hearing with parliament's Commission I [in charge of defense and foreign affairs] in Jakarta yesterday. The U.S. briefing team will explain the price and payment system for the F-16's offered to Indonesia.

The ABRI commander said ABRI will not accept the offer hastily. "We must consider the offer first. Even though they are offering the planes at a cheap price, we will consider the offer carefully before making a decision," he said at the hearing, chaired by B.N. Marbun of the Indonesian Democratic Party parliamentary faction.

The ABRI commander said funds are not yet available to buy the planes. "We have no idea whether we have the funds to buy the planes, but we will certainly discuss the offer," he said.

During the hearing, the ABRI commander said ABRI has always maintained cordial relations with the U.S.

Armed Forces, and these have not been affected by the suspension of the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program.

The ABRI commander said IMET's suspension has actually damaged U.S. interests because potential U.S. military leaders have missed the chance to get to know potential Indonesian military leaders. "IMET's suspension has hurt the U.S. side. Our side has not been affected at all," he said.

It is known that the United States wants to resume the IMET program for Indonesia. This was disclosed by Admiral William Owens, deputy chief of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, when he paid a courtesy call on President Suharto on Tuesday. [passage omitted on police officer's parliamentary briefing on juvenile delinquency]

Trade, Economic Issues Discussed With Rafidah

BK1909121095 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 19 Sep 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta—Trade Minister Satrio Budiarjo Yudono and Rafidah Aziz, Malaysian minister of international trade and industry, met in Jakarta on 18 September to exchange ideas on global trade, the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"It is good to have frank discussions on these matters so that a common consensus can be reached," Rafidah said after her meeting with Yudono. She said they also discussed bilateral trade and investment in their respective countries during the meeting.

On AFTA, Rafidah said she discussed with Judono the action taken at the ASEAN economic ministers meeting held in Brunei recently. Although the timetable for the implementation of AFTA was set for 2003, ASEAN member countries renewed their commitment to adopt the best strategy to determine the goods to be listed under 0 percent tariffs. [passage omitted]

Hartono Reksodiputro, Indonesia's director of foreign trade relations, was present at the meeting. He said that the two ministers' discussions on AFTA were considered important because intra-ASEAN trade had now reached 30-40 percent of total international trade in this region.

Indonesia showed a surplus in bilateral trade with Malaysia for the past two consecutive years. Indonesia suffered a trade deficit two years earlier. "We are not very concerned about the trade balance between Indonesia and Malaysia, because eventually it will be balanced," Rafidah said.

Reksodiputro said that the two ministers also discussed preparations for the upcoming APEC forum in Osaka in November.

"Some think that ASEAN member countries should be cohesive and compatible with one another so that a common stance can be reached at the upcoming APEC forum," Reksodiputro added. He said the idea is designed to produce a harmonious ASEAN voice at the forum. [passage omitted]

Norwegian Prime Minister Holds News Conference

BK1909132495 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, prime minister of Norway, has said that her country's participation in the development of Natuna Islands will need to be discussed again to ascertain whether or not participation will be limited to government agencies or will be open to private businessmen as well.

Brundtland said this at a press conference held at the State Secretariat in Jakarta this morning. However, she reminded everyone that a memorandum of understanding on the cooperation had been signed between the governments of Indonesia and Norway.

She said that there has been bilateral cooperation in topography.

Responding to a journalist's question on the Bosnian conflict, Brundtland said that some progress has been made now that the warring factions have agreed to hold a meeting.

The Government of Norway has not only provided financial assistance for the refugee programs but has also taken in some refugees in the effort to solve the conflict.

Editorial Discusses Race for Arms Market

BK1909113495 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 19 Sep 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Southeast Asia's Arms Market is the Focus of Attention at the 'Defense Asia 95' Arms Exhibition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An arms exhibition, "Defense Asia 95", has been under way in Bangkok for almost a week, with some 200 arms companies from 27 countries in attendance. As usual, the event that opened on 14 September is in conjunction with a defense and security seminar to discuss current developments in Southeast Asia.

For your information, similar events, such as air exhibitions on Langkawi Island, Malaysia and a series of Asian aerospace exhibitions in Singapore, have become routine in the region. Each exhibition has showed progress in arms technology. Obviously, all of the arms producers have eyed the existing regional market.

The background of the race for the Southeast Asian arms market is very simple. First, ongoing efforts to create new security arrangements following the end of the Cold War have prompted regional armed forces to reassess their military equipment. Second, economic growth has enabled them to buy additional military equipment. Opening the exhibition in Bangkok, General Prasoet Sararit of the Thai Defense Ministry reinforced this background by saying that ASEAN would play a role in developing an integrated defense structure and a dynamic geopolitical order in the region. Thailand will develop its armed forces to enable Thailand to be more responsive to the current global situation.

Discussing Southeast Asia in general, Dr. Derek da Cunha, an observer from the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, said the region is the last in the world where defense budgets continue to grow in the post-Cold War era. Da Cunha said there are reasons to modernize weapons systems and for continued dependence on high arms technology.

Robert Birsel from REUTERS reiterated that available funds for the security sector have increased along with economic growth. Visitors to the Bangkok exhibition agree that Southeast Asia has emerged as a major arms market, and observers have predicted that it will become the world's main arms market in the future.

The forecast has been reinforced by the fact that there is tension in the South China Sea due to overlapping claims to the Spratlys. Consequently, the need for arms is something concrete. Moreover, countries need to protect their respective 200-mile exclusive economic zones.

The United States, on the one hand, is apparently reducing its presence in the region further, despite the uncertain circumstances. China, on the other hand, whose intention is not always easy to assess, continues to build up its military power. Indeed, it is difficult to deny that the U.S. withdrawal from the region is creating a vacuum. Countries in the region have indirectly responded to the phenomenon with arms purchases.

The Southeast Asian countries feel that they themselves would better fill the vacuum rather than letting other forces, either China or Japan, do so.

Da Cunha predicted that five Southeast Asian countries would possess some 20 submarines within 10 to 15 years. At present, only Indonesia has two submarines. In the meantime, the number of fighter jets will increase by 20 percent to about 1,200.

Arms producers are also seeking to obtain profits as Southeast Asian countries are racing for high-technology armaments. Accordingly, they are upbeat about current developments.

Perhaps the need for modern arms in Southeast Asia is real. Experience shows, however, that growing military budgets have denied countries the opportunity to pay attention to other sectors, such as education, agriculture, and the expansion of the manufacturing industry, which may be more urgent.

In an editorial last week, quoted by THE JAKARTA POST (18 September), the daily THAILAND TIMES reminded us of what has happened to the United States. The Reagan administration spent a lot of money on programs to reinforce the United States militarily. The buildup had made the United States stronger; however, it was in fact an illusion. By encouraging the people to incur debts, the United States weakened its economy. After eight years of military buildup, the United States became an economically weak nation. The United States decided to sharply reduce its military budget in 1989, but the move was too late because there had been a recession.

Western arms producers have not fully recovered from the recession. As their survival is further threatened by strong competition, there is an assumption that they are really manipulating developing nations. There is a suspicion that they have engineered conflicts and divisions in the Third World to enable them to market their products.

Against this background, we hope that Southeast Asian countries will learn a lesson from the U.S. experience, as well from the experience in other regions, particularly the Middle East. Indeed, economic strength will not raise a country's prestige, and ignoring military development will be dangerous. Nevertheless, military development requires careful and wise consideration.

We should freshly reassess the matter every time an arms exhibition takes place.

ABRI Commander: East Timor Situation 'Calm'

BK2109105895 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 21 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta—ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] Commander General Feisal Tanjung has said that rioting in East Timor is now under control. With the help of local residents, security forces and government officials have managed to restore calm and order to prevent the people from aggravating the situation.

Speaking at a working meeting in Jakarta yesterday with the House of Representatives [DPR] Commission I, which oversees foreign affairs, information, and national security, Gen. Feisal said that the perpetrators of the rioting have been arrested, and they will be investigated through the legal process. The Catholic church has made an open apology to all its followers that were victims of the incident.

During the meeting, Gen. Feisal also reported a chronology of the riots in East Timor from 2 to 12 September 1995. [passage omitted on the incident]

Following the meeting, journalists managed to ask Gen. Feisal about the controversial statement made by East Timor Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo. In an interview in the 23 September edition of the **GATRA** magazine, Belo was quoted as saying: "For example, I myself used to propose, and am still proposing, to allow East Timor to be a special Catholic area. The proposal, however, was rejected."

Gen. Feisal has disputed the idea. He said that the national Constitution does not allow for the creation of a special area based on religious belief.

"The idea is wrong. Our national Constitution does not recognize such a thing," he said.

Abu Hasan Sazili and Sabam Sirait, two members of Commission I, also rejected Belo's idea on a different occasion. "That will lead to the compartmentalization of the Indonesian people," Abu Hasan said.

Sabam said: "In principle, Indonesia is an open country that does not differentiate between people according to their ethnic group, race, religion, and origin."

Abu feels that the DPR should hold talks with Belo to hold him responsible for the incident that incited division among the Catholic majority, the Muslim minority, and the Christian Protestants in East Timor. [passage omitted]

A report from Dili says that religious figures in East Timor have agreed to a plan to establish an interreligions forum. They met yesterday with Baharuddin Lopa, secretary general of the National Commission on Human Rights. "All the religious figures that we met agreed to set up the forum immediately; however, the arrangements regarding formation of the forum will have to be discussed in detail by the respective religious organizations at their technical meetings. It is clear that the National Human Rights Commission's suggestion has been accepted," he told **REPUBLIKA** on the first day of his visit to East Timor. [passage omitted]

Group Tells AFP Freedom of Press 'Worsened'

BK2009112695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, Sept 20 (AFP) — Press freedom is deteriorating in Indonesia, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said Wednesday as it promised a worldwide campaign to free three newsmen jailed for insulting the government.

"Press freedom in Indonesia has worsened since last year. There's a very uncertain climate in the media here," IFJ General Secretary Aidan White told AFP during a visit to Jakarta.

He described this week's voluntary suspension of the Sunday edition of the national daily Media Indonesia by its owner as a "very, very worrying" form of self-censorship.

"There's this constant fear of being too critical," White said.

Media Indonesia announced Monday that it was temporarily suspending publication of its Sunday edition, staffed by former reporters of the banned Tempo weekly.

The last issue of the Sunday edition featured an interview by an Indonesian intellectual, Nurcholis Majid, in which he was quoted as saying that President Suharto held the final word on every government decision.

It also carried a report on demands that a government minister stand trial over an alleged insult to Islam, and an analysis on the suspension of a weekly talk show on the private SCTV television network.

White said the IFJ planned to launch an international campaign, including appeals to the United Nations, for the release of three Indonesian journalists detained within the last month for allegedly insulting the authorities.

"The jailing of the journalists was clearly a political action. We cannot talk and solve the problem of press freedom when they (the government) keep putting journalists in jail," White said.

Two journalists of Independen, a monthly published by the Alliance of Independent Journalists, were each sentenced to 32 months in jail on September 1 on charges of publicly expressing feelings of enmity, hatred or insult against the government.

Another journalist, of the Kabar dari Pijar (News from Pijar) bulletin, published by the Pijar human rights organization, was sentenced to two years in jail on

September 11 for an alleged insult against Suharto in 1994.

Both Independen and Kabar dari Pijar were banned earlier this year by the attorney general's office, which said neither had publishing licenses.

The information ministry has twice summoned editors-in-chief of major publications this month to warn them against reporting on a series of protests against Information Minister Harmoko, who allegedly made a word pun with a Koran verse — considered in Indonesia to be a grave insult to Islam.

The New-York based IFJ, representing 100 national media associations in 94 countries, campaigns for press freedom and the protection of journalists worldwide.

Finance Minister Predicts Debt Burden Decrease

BK2109081995 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 14 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jakarta (JP) — The negative net transfer of official capital from Indonesia increased last fiscal year but is expected to decrease in the current fiscal year, Minister of Finance Mar'ie Muhammad said yesterday.

Speaking at a hearing with the House of Representatives' Commission VII—which oversees banking, finance, trade and cooperatives — Mar'ie said that the government's servicing of and installments on foreign debts increased to Rp [rupiah] 18.22 trillion (U.S.$8.18 billion) during the 1994/1995 fiscal year, which ended in March, but that receipts from new loans amounted only to Rp 10.98 trillion.

Even though the government's receipts from new loans in 1994/1995 were larger than the Rp 10.37 trillion booked in the previous fiscal year there was still a negative net transfer of Rp 7.24 trillion last year, he added.

The negative transfers were up by 6.5 percent from Rp 6.8 trillion in the 1993/1994 fiscal year.

Mar'ie said that in the current fiscal year the servicing and installments of official foreign debts are estimated to decrease to Rp 17.9 trillion and the amount of new foreign loans is expected to reach Rp 11.76 trillion.

Therefore, the negative net transfers in the current fiscal year will decline to Rp 6.14 trillion or 15 percent less than last year's negative net transfer of Rp 7.24 trillion.

"We will continue to suffer such negative transfers of official capital during the current five-year development plan. However, it is worth noting that this situation is not an extraordinary matter," Mar'ie told the commission.

Mar'ie added that the government is committed to further decreasing the negative net transfers in the official capital account but he did not give further details.

Indonesia's foreign debts are currently estimated at about $100 billion, of which $60 billion is owed by the public sector and the remainder by the private sector.

At yesterday's hearing, Mar'ie also expressed optimism that this year's inflation rate will remain at a one digit level, between 8.8 percent and nine percent.

The cumulative inflation rate for the first eight months of this year reached 6.41 percent, slightly lower than the 6.85 percent recorded for the same period of last year.

Mar'ie also reported to the House members that bank credits extended to small and medium enterprises had already reached Rp 37.6 trillion as of June, or 25.1 percent of all commercial banks' total outstanding credits.

Of the Rp 37.6 trillion, 45 percent was made up of small loans of less than Rp 25 million, 10.6 percent of loans amounting to between Rp 25 million and Rp 50 million, 14.7 percent of between Rp 50 million and Rp 100 million and 29.5 percent of between Rp 100 million and Rp 250 million. [passage omitted on proposed collateral-free loans for small and medium-sized enterprises]

Philippines

Ramos Discusses Maid, Panamanian President

BK2109054395 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 21 Sep 95

[Weekly news conference by Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos with domestic correspondents at Malacanang Palace in Manila on 20 September, moderated by Press Secretary Hector Villanueva; broadcast in progress — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Villanueva] Fred? Fred Lobo, Sir, to ask the last question.

[Lobo] Good afternoon, Mr. President.

[Ramos] Good afternoon.

[Lobo] Yesterday, Mr. President, you showed your concern for Sarah Balabagan [maid convicted of murder in United Arab Emirates] by appointing Justice Abedeen to [words indistinct]. How optimistic are you as to her acquittal, Mr. President?

[Ramos] I do not think we should try to be pessimistic or optimistic. The main effort of every Filipino now is to help Sarah through our collective efforts, and such instances as flag burning — which may still be happening — certainly should be condemned by all of us. Even if these are manifestations of legitimate protest over the unfair decision on Sarah, we must not exacerbate her situation. We may be adding to her misery and eventual final conviction and punishment by such unreasonable displays of emotion on the part of Filipinos. So I would like to again call for sobriety and unity among Filipinos, because that is the only way we can help our poor countrywoman Sarah.

In the meantime, what I announced yesterday as part of our intensification of efforts to gain justice for Sarah will continue. Justice Abedeen has accepted this assignment that I have requested him to assume, and we have already had a [word indistinct] conversation so that he is alerted to the importance and urgency of this task that I have asked him to undertake, (?not uniquely) for Sarah but also in general for our Filipino countrymen and women who are working abroad in Islamic countries.

[Lobo] Follow-up, Mr. President. Will the job of Justice Abedeen cover judicial and extrajudicial action?

[Ramos] His main job, as I indicated in our press statement yesterday, is to be a special envoy for the government and our people under my authority focusing on legal counsel and legal assistance. He is not to replace the diplomatic offices and establishments of Philippine Government abroad, but he will be reinforcing their efforts on behalf of our workers in Islamic countries because he is not only the highest-ranking official — legal luminary — from our Muslim brothers, but he is also the highest expert on the Shariah law, which is the law that was applied to Sarah Balabagan.

[Lobo] Thank you, Mr. President. Good luck to you and to case of Sarah.

[Ramos] Okay, let me just announce this because of recent developments. President Ernesto Perez Balladares of Panama departed at noontime. He finished his schedule according to what was arranged for him, and I have a statement to make here focusing on the importance of his visit.

I had a telephone call, a telephone conversation with him this morning before he departed, and he appeared very satisfied with his tour of Subic. It appears that this is a technology that we can transfer to our friends and neighbors, the people of Panama, because they are expecting the turnover of the U.S. facilities along the canal zone to the Government of Panama by end-1999. And so they took a very close look at what we are doing in Subic under our Republic Act 7227. Aside from all of that, we found that there is a very strong complimentarity between our two economies and our similarity as economic hubs in our respective regions. In the case of Panama, they are specially located favorably because they are just in between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans and they are also just in between North and South America. So we will pursue our economic cooperation with Panama. [passage omitted]

Investments Protection Accord Signed With Canada

BK2109082295 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 19 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Paul N. Villegas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Philippines and Canada have finally signed an agreement on the promotion and protection of investments between the two countries last Friday in Ottawa after three days of intensive negotiations, the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday said.

The accord, which was signed by Board of Investment governor Conrad Leviste and Canada's DFAIT [Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade] investments negotiator James Bradford for their respective governments, is expected to boost Canadian investments in the country.

Lauded as the first of such kind which Canada entered into in Asia, the agreement is expected to attract more Canadian investors to the Philippines and join investors like Sunlife Assurance Co., Manufacturers Life Assurance Co., as well as the Bank of Nova Scotia, which has been operating in Manila since 1972.

Philippine Ambassador to Ottawa Pacifico Castro said he expects big Canadian multinationals, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises, to infuse foreign capital into the country before the turn of the century. Canadian firms have expressed interests in the country's telecommunications sector, power generation, and energy projects, and major infrastructure projects, to name a few.

Trade Ties With France To Remain 'Normal'

BK2109085095 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Sep 95 p B1

[Report by Corrie S. Narisma]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino S. Navarro said bilateral relations between the Philippines and France will remain normal despite the controversy on the latter's nuclear tests in the Pacific.

Navarro said the Philippine Government will "try to treat its economic relations separate from its political relations with France."

However, he emphasized the Philippine Government's stand against nuclear testing that could be destructive to the environment and the people's health by any country.

"But we have to treat it separately from commercial activities which include investments and trade. We will not do anything that would be detrimental to the Philippines," he added.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has opposed calls to boycott French products saying the nuclear test is a decision of the French Government and not the private sector in France.

French investments in the Philippines rose by a 282 percent to P [Philippine pesos]33.78 million in the first seven months of the year from last year's P8.84 million.

Extremists Reportedly Preparing Mindanao Attacks

BK2109040795 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Sep 95 pp 1, 9

[Report by Froilan Gallardo, Charlie Senase, Rolly A. San Juan, and Stella Estremera]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cagayan De Oro City — The extremist Abu Sayyaf group has linked up with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] to launch a series of attacks in Mindanao this month to protest ongoing peace talks for Muslim autonomy, military intelligence reports said.

Dubbed "Black September," the joint rebel offensive will reportedly target vital facilities of the National Power Corp. [Napocor], the communications relay station of the Army's 4th Infantry Division on the hilltop of Manticao town, Misamis Oriental.

Other targets are banks and commercial establishments in Naawan and Initao towns, also in Misamis Oriental, the reports said.

Military, police and Napocor officials confirmed the reports, and said they are preparing to counter the threat.

But Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF spokesperson, denied his group has forged an alliance with the Abu Sayyaf. He also said the MILF is supporting the ongoing peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF].

The attacks will be launched on or before 30 September by fresh recruits of the Al Harakat Al Islamiah/Abu Sayyaf Group and will be headed by Tagoranao Macapaar, alias Kumander James Bond, the reports said.

Macapaar "has reportedly (been given) the blessing and go-signal of Abu Sayyaf leader Abdurajik Abubakar Janjalani and has already dispatched covert operatives to conduct surveillance and casing activities on their prospective targets."

The reports said the rebels are also preparing to attack Damulog town in Bukidnon, another town in North Cotabato and Wao, Lanao del Sur.

Simultaneous raids will also be conducted against government forces in the cities of Butuan, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Cotabato and Zamboanga.

If carried out, the attacks would be more devastating than the 4 April raid conducted by Abu Sayyaf extremists on Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, officials said.

Already, about 200 suspected Abu Sayyaf members were spotted Friday in Pantar town, Lanao del Norte, near the site of Napocor's Agus 2 hydroelectric power project.

"We are prepared for these contingencies. We have already established precautionary measures against the threat," Emmanuel Abellanosa, special assistant to Napocor, president Guido Delgado, told the INQUIRER.

Col. Esperidion Balintag, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said the military and the police have drawn up a joint defense plan for Cagayan de Oro City and the rest of the targets.

"Actually, there is no fixed timetable. The threat can be a psychological operation of the Abu Sayyaf to instill fear among the populace," Balintag said.

Bomb Threats

In Davao City, sources said several banks have been receiving letters and telephone calls for the past two weeks threatening them with either bombings or armed attacks.

One letter reportedly mentioned a plan to attack at least six Davao banks.

"The projected attacks are designed to show to the Philippine Government the vehement opposition of the Abu Sayyaf and the MILF to the ongoing peace talks," an intelligence report said.

The report said the MILF considered the MNLF's demand for Muslim autonomy "a duplication of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao."

The MILF is campaigning for the secession of Mindanao from the rest of the Philippines while the Abu

Sayyaf wants to establish an Islamic government in the region.

In Cotabato City, MILF vice chair Al Haj Murad said war was imminent in Maguindanao unless the government stops its massive deployment of troops and "all other apparatuses of death" in the area.

Security Precaution

But Maj. Gen. Ruperto Ambil Jr., Armed Forces southern command chief, said the troop deployment was only a security precaution and not an invitation to war with any of the rebel factions.

"We are just being prepared because you do not know what the enemy is thinking," he said. "The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] is duty bound to protect the people. We should be prepared always on that aspect."

Many of the troops are securing government projects in Maguindanao, such as an oil exploration mission by the Philippine National Oil Co. in Sultan sa Barongis, a multimillion-peso irrigation project in the Maganoy-Ampatuan area and road construction in the Parang-Sultan Kudarat-Barira area.

Lt. Col. Romulo Ilagan, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the military does not want a repetition of the fighting that erupted at a South Korean-funded irrigation project in Carmen, North Cotabato, last year.

At least 30 people were killed and hundreds of families were displaced in the fighting between MILF and government troops assigned to secure the project.

Muslim Rebels, Army in Maguindanao Standoff

BK2109123695 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Charlie C. Senase and Nash B. Maulana]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Camp Siongco, Sinsuat, Maguindanao — Up to 14,000 Muslim guerrillas and three Army battalions are locked in a tense standoff over several government projects here.

Brig. Gen. Raul Urgello, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the two sides are facing each other "eyeball to eyeball" in Matanog Town.

Rebels belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have fired at Army engineers who were working on a highway in Matanog, Urgello said.

Government soldiers are also securing other foreign-funded government projects such as an irrigation dam and an oil drilling by the state-run oil firm Philippine National Oil Co. [PNOC] in the area.

Urgello described the situation as "volatile."

He said several families in Matanog have fled to the towns of Parang, Barira, and Buldon, all in Maguindanao.

The Peace Center of the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City has reported thousands have also fled the town of Sultan Sa Barongis, site of a PNOC oil exploration project.

An emissary has been sent to ask MILF leaders to leave the construction site and allow workers to finish the highway linking Parang Town in Maguindanao to Malabang Town in Lanao del Sur.

But soldiers have also been seen closing in on the MILF rebels who, according to military sources, may have linked up with the extremist Abu Sayyaf. Both groups are seeking to form an independent Muslim state in Mindanao.

MILF leaders, however, denied forming an alliance with the Abu Sayyaf. Ghazzali Jaafar, MILF spokesman, said his group is committed to support peace negotiations between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front.

Al Haj Murad, vice chair of the MILF Central Committee, said Monday fighting between his group and government soldiers could resume unless the military stopped deploying more troops.

Matanog, where three Army battalions are concentrated, is adjacent to the town of Barira where the biggest MILF training camp is located.

"We cannot allow this (buildup) to continue," said Murad.

Urgello said the presence of soldiers in government projects in Maguindanao does not mean a military offensive against the MILF.

The soldiers were sent to the construction sites to guard against saboteurs, he said.

Government troops have also been sent to Sultan Sa Barongis where the PNOC is drilling for oil.

Urgello said the PNOC is reportedly renting a drilling rig at $100,000 per day.

A day's delay, he said, is a lot of money lost for the government. "That's why we are tightly securing this project."

The Kabulnan irrigation project in the Maganoy-Ampatuan area is another site being guarded by soldiers, Urgello said.

Vice Gov. Midpantao Midtim-bang convened yesterday afternoon Maguindanao's peace and order council to discuss ways to defuse the tension.

Urgello said he hoped political leaders can convince the MILF leadership to remove rebel checkpoints and roadblocks in Matanog and along the Buldon-Midsayap Road and Banisilan-Libungan Road.

Urgello said military intelligence has uncovered the rebels' Oplan [Operation] Zero Hour, a plan to recruit and arm more rebels.

The plan first surfaced in December, but it seems to have been resurrected, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Romulo Ilagan said.

"I'm placing more troops in critical areas to make sure that our men are not outnumbered (by the enemies)," Urgello said.

He said military presence in the area should not be misconstrued as an offensive move but rather a defensive security posture.

To ease the tension, officials proposed that military engineers go back to the project site after the MILF rebels have withdrawn.

"Development will overtake the outbreak of war," said 1st Lt. Noel Detoyato, head of the Army's psychological operations unit.

Military Views Strengthening of MNLF Defenses

BK2109133095 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 20 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Edith Alejandro]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Philippine Army [PA] yesterday said that the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has been violating the cease-fire agreement with government by continuing to recruit new members and accumulating more high-powered weapons.

A report submitted to PA Chief Lt. Gen. Orlando Soriano said the MNLF also is strengthening its defensive posture in areas it claims control while preparing to go on the offensive if the peace talks with government collapses.

"The MNLF is maintaining a defensive posture while closely monitoring the military forces' strength and supplies buildup," the report said.

The cease-fire agreement between the MNLF and the government specifically said that MNLF would not embark on an arms buildup.

The report also said that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has taken a back seat in the rebel activities in the South but was still a threat, although it does not have the capability to launch an attack similar to the attack which razed the town of Ipil and killed more than 60 people.

The Abu Sayyaf is also accumulating firearms and making effort to recruit more members, the report said.

The extremist terrorist group is reportedly offering P [pesos] 7,000 to P8,000 and firearms to recruits.

The report said that the government has been successfully countering the Abu Sayyaf's recruitment effort with its rebel amnesty program which pays surrenderees P17,000 in livelihood funds plus P7,000 for each gun or rifle surrendered.

Moro Liberation Front Leader Interviewed

BK1909160295 Jakarta FORUM KEADILAN in Indonesian 11 Sep 95 pp 79, 82

["Excerpts" of an interview with Nur Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front, by FORUM correspondent Wahyu Muryadi in Jolo in "mid-August"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Muryadi] Almost all the people here are carrying arms. Can you tell me why?

[Misuari] I think the absence of law is the main problem on this island. Everyone is his own judge because there is no police force here. In fact, people often get involved in conflicts and fighting breaks out. They are free to carry arms and can commit murders because there is no law governing them. There is, however, law and order in several areas; they resort to self-defense to protect themselves from the central government and their enemies. Sometimes they clash with one another over land disputes and squabble over trivial issues such as durian trees. They also clash over political issues. In Panamao, for instance, it ended with shootouts using mortars, bazookas, and heavy weapons.

[Muryadi] Does a political issue ignite intercommunal clashes?

[Misuari] The intercommunal clashes occurred in several places because they were vying for a mayoralty seat in a province. There was a mayoral candidate that fought with his own nephew. The two sides have hundreds of armed troops, such that the Philippine military, Marines, and National Police personnel were kept busy handling them. The uncle and nephew came here at times to request my assistance in settling the dispute. An ulema was dispatched to the location to normalize the situation. They sometimes launched mortar attacks against the towns, so the people were happy when I came here. They were thankful to God that I visited them, saying that my presence would enable them to sleep soundly.

[Muryadi] How can the law be enforced in the absence of a police force?

[Misuari] The law of the jungle is adopted. There are two choices In a dispute: to kill or be killed. The one who kills the enemy gets everything. Thus, we see that many people are carrying firearms. This is just a normal thing to do; they are protecting themselves. This is limited, however, to certain areas only.

[Muryadi] The location is near a Philippine marine base, is it not?

[Musuari] The port is just 1.5 km from here. We clashed with Philippine marines in the past. Most of us, including me, are experts at making bombs. In fact, I trained them to make bombs. We have plenty of bomb experts here. We are skillful at it. In the past clashes, we damaged the Philippine Army's tanks by deploying RPG-7 anti-tanks rifles, but the weapons were meant for special targets only. They are very expensive, and we do not have a fund for such weapons.

[Muryadi] From where did you get the weapons?

[Misuari] We acquired them from the black market, or we seized them from the Philippine Army, Marines, National Police, and the Philippine armed militia, CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit].

[Muryadi] How many soldiers do you have?

[Misuari] I do not know precisely how many there are. A Filipino reporter said that there were 18,000. Perhaps there are more than 20,000 soldiers, if they are all grouped together. They are undergoing military training to improve their military capability and to get ready for integration with the Philippine Army.

[Muryadi] The offer of integration is just a formality. What are your comments?

[Misuari] The government is serious about it, although the integration will be gradual.

[Muryadi] Who is conducting the training of your soldiers?

[Misuari] We are doing it. The instructors, however, were trained overseas. I cannot tell you where. A total of 15,000 soldiers will be fully integrated with the Philippine Army.

[Muryadi] From where do the funds come?

[Misuari] Oh, the funds come from God (with his finger pointing to the sky) and from donations from our sympathizers. We do not worry about this. Our sympathizers contribute the funds when they get the money from the agricultural harvests and the fishing industry. This is for their own protection, because life is very dangerous here. They also buy arms for self-defense in this lawless land. A case cannot be referred to the court here if anyone is murdered. Nothing can be done about it, even if such an incident is brought to the court. People get killed every day, and it is not a big issue at all. Under the law of the jungle, the stronger side always wins. The people contribute to the funds of their own free will in order to perform good deeds. We cannot collect taxes from the people to raise funds for the soldiers. We are grateful to the people who want to contribute to the funds. We do not mind at all if it is otherwise.

[Muryadi] So the soldiers are not given salaries?

[Misuari] No, we cannot afford to do so. We do not have the money. We only have the blessings from God. Nobody is salaried; we are satisfied to have some money for food and for our daily needs. I do not have anything, and this house does not belong to me. It has become run down. We are poor people.

[Muryadi] Do you have any link with the extremist movement?

[Misuari] No, we are not close. We are protecting our movement's freedom. We do not want our people to be provoked by the opposition. We reject extreme ideologies. We believe that extremism does not hold any promise and, in fact, is isolated from the people. We must carry out our activities in a relatively free atmosphere. The enemy tried to launch an extreme revolutionary movement at times, but they gained nothing from it.

[Muryadi] Why are you so apprehensive about being labelled an extremist?

[Misuari] We strongly believe that extremism is unworthy. We may be banished for being extremists. We wish to be more tolerant. We want to prevent social crisis and disorderliness. This will act as a boomerang to all of us. If we are extremists, we will be isolated from the world.

[Muyadi] What is your contact with Libya like?

[Misuari] Previously, our ties with Libya were very close. As a result of the sanctions against Libya and now that we are in the process of peace negotiations, we no longer maintain active contact. Most of our time is devoted to the ongoing peace process. There are no aircraft to fly us to Libya. The journey to that country is long and expensive. We still have an office there, but our contact is not as active as it used to be.

[Muryadi] You dislike extremism, but why do you establish contact with Libya, which is considered as a nation of terrorists?

[Musuari] I think the Libyan Government is one that strongly adheres to the law. For example, they introduced the case on the territorial border dispute with Malta and Tunisia to the United Nations International Court of Justice. How many countries have brought such cases to the International Court? I do not believe that Libya was involved in the bomb blast on the Lockheed aircraft. Frankly, that was impossible.

[Muryadi] Then why did you send people for commando training?

[Misuari] Well, [preceding word in English] we have our own authority to send our youths for training abroad; however, we cannot explain this openly, I am sorry. Besides, there are no other countries willing to help us. Of course, we need support from all countries. We do have a large number of first class commando trainers.

[Muryadi] Is it true that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) broke away from the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] due to disappointment over your moderate attitude?

[Misuari] They want to be an independent group. They say that they will lend support to us if a full autonomous state for Mindanao is achieved; if not, as stated in the Tripoli Treaty, they will continue with their struggle for independence. All of the MILF leaders and commandants were former members of the MNLF. They broke away because they wanted to spread their own ideas. The idea for the creation of an autonomous state in Mindanao caused the split among us. I do not know if there are other motives. We want Mindanao to be an autonomous state, but they want independence to be achieved there. I do not know who is backing them, but I heard that the MILF is overloaded with arms. When I met with their leaders, I noticed that they have the latest RPG-2 anti-tanks rifles. They said that they now have many foreign-made arms. They said to me: Chairman, we support you in your struggle for autonomy. We pray that you and the members of your movement will receive genuine and complete autonomy. Otherwise, we will continue with our struggle for independence. We have adequate arms supplies and are ready to fight. The MILF leaders that I met were its chairman, Ustyad [Islamic religious teacher] Salamat Hasyim, and Ghazali, deputy vice chairman of political relations. We have good relations, unlike several years ago when we were squabbling with one another.

[Muryadi] What about the attitude of other Muslim factions and opposition movements in Mindanao?

[Misuari] The Abu Sayyaf group and the Islamic Command Council have wanted independence. Likewise, the Christian group of the Mindanao Independence Movement, several indigenous people, lawyers, and prominent industrialists and lawyers wish to gain independence. Only the MNLF wants autonomy. The Philippine Government, however, sees no logic in giving us autonomy. They say that a referendum should be held.

[Muryadi] Are you familiar with the members of the Abu Sayyaf group?

[Misuari] They operate in certain areas only. It is a small group, but they can create problems for the government. They did not cause any disturbances during the peace talks between the MNLF and the government. They were observers at the talks. All groups are waiting to see what is going to happen next. There is no problem so far.

[Muryadi] Do you have contacts with Abu Sayyaf, alias Abdurrajak Janjalani?

[Misuari] That is something very difficult for us to do, because the Philippine Government, the United Nations, and the United States would accuse us of being extremists if we did. The group under Abu Sayyaf's leadership is not well organized yet. They were students that received scholarships from us to study (religion) in Libya. After they completed their studies, however, they changed their mind.

[Muryadi] Is it true that Abu Sayyaf is specifically the central government's agent?

[Misuari] Well, [preceding word in English] that is what most people say. Perhaps he is not associated with all of the government's personnel. Probably President Ramos does not know about this. Maybe he is being used by the intelligence unit to cause a split among us. I do not know for sure; it is difficult for me to answer this question because there is considerable speculation about Abu Sayyaf. This is not healthy. Perhaps the people of Zamboaga City know more about him because they are nearer to his base.

[Muryadi] They killed 72 people in their raid on Ipil last April.

[Misuari] We disagree with their action. People consider their actions akin to those of robbers who rob millions of pesos from banks even though they may not need the money. People condemn their action, which is what American gangsters do—destroying and burning towns and also murdering 72 innocent people.

[Muryadi] The government has offered a prize of 1.5 million pesos for the arrest of Abu Sayyaf. Are you interested?

[Misuari] I want to see his face now. Do you have his photograph?

[Muryadi] What will you do if you meet Abu Sayyaf?

[Misuari] I cannot say anything to these people. What I want to say is: Just listen to us. I will speak to them if they are willing to listen, but I am not sure they will listen because they are extremists. One of his advisers surrendered to the government, and he was identified as a government agent. He was also identified as an agent of the DPA [Deep Penetrating Agency].

[Muryadi] What is the latest news on the peace talks between the MNLF and the Philippine Government?

[Misuari] We have discussed all aspects of the problem, except Article 1 and 2 of the Tripoli Treaty. We are still carefully studying Article 3. We have stated our position. The problem is still on the allocation of the economic pie, taxation, security, and the autonomous zone's contribution.

[Muryadi] What does economic pie allocation mean?

[Misuari] We want 90 percent of the regional income, and the rest is for the central government for the first 10 years. After that, the central government's percentage will increase gradually. We still cannot reach an agreement on this. As for tax collection, we offered to take 90 percent and give 10 percent to them, but they even proposed that we take the entire tax collection because they know that the Muslim people here are reluctant to pay taxes. Nobody here wants to pay taxes.

[Muryadi] Why does the Philippine Government insist on the holding of a plebiscite?

[Misuari] It is the Philippine Government's interpretation of Chapter 3 of Article 16, which stipulates that constitutional means will be used in the peace process. According to them, this means that a plebiscite or referendum will have to be held. That is what they want, and they do not want to give up the 13 provinces and nine towns. I think this is an incorrect interpretation. A plebiscite is not the way to implement the Tripoli Treaty signed in 1976. Therefore, we requested the OIC's [Organization of Islamic Conference] assistance because they decided to drop the 13 provinces and nine towns two months after the treaty was signed during the Marcos rule. There will be chaos if they continue to insist on this. So they insist on a referendum to reduce the area of autonomous territory specified in the Tripoli Treaty. That is the reason there is no governor's post here.

[Muryadi] Why did you reject the offer to become ARMM (Autonomous Region Muslim Mindanao) governor?

[Misuari] Nobody has encouraged me to accept the offer because it is not a true solution to the problem. The ARMM concept is an artificial solution. We have fought for more than 20 years because we want to solve the problem and achieve peace. With the ARMM, we can do nothing. We cannot improve the people's welfare. The ARMM is simply an administrative autonomy in four provinces, without including the towns. I rejected the offer, as our position would have been very weak.

[Muryadi] How did you reject the offer?

[Misuari] I immediately wrote my letter of rejection to talks negotiator Manuel Yan.

[Muryadi] What kind of autonomy do you want?

[Misuari] We want political autonomy with full administrative authority, but without several types of authority, such as foreign affairs, national defense, finance, and communications. We will have representatives in the government, which will consist of Christians, Muslims, and aboriginal peoples. We will have regional governments in all the 13 provinces and nine towns. We will have mayors, district chiefs, and others. We will also have representatives in the central government and at least one secretary to the ministry from our side, as well as representatives in the Supreme Court, Congress, Senate, and the executive office. A judicial commission with branches in our area will also be established.

[Muryadi] Why do you not insist on demanding independence? Are you afraid that you will lose your followers?

[Misuari] No. You can see there are many people here who are ready to become mujahideen fighters. We control all checkpoints and the Philippine Marines only control a few. We adopt this stand because the OIC has persuaded us not to demand independence. We do not want to be isolated by Islamic countries, and we do not want a civil war to break out in our area. We will suffer from the negative consequences if there is a civil war, and the OIC will stop its moral and political support. An OIC resolution in 1974 called on us not to demand independence and to accept autonomy instead.

[Muryadi] So what is the goal of your struggle?

[Misuari] Our goal is to achieve autonomy. We used to fight for independence before this, but the OIC advised us to change our goal. The OIC believes that it is easier to gain autonomy, but I believe it is easier to gain independence. If we gain autonomy, we will not be able to call on the people to fight. If we have independence, however, we can call on the people to stand up and fight because independence will unite them. Autonomy will only split us into smaller groups. Therefore, we demand to have 60 percent of our land in addition to Jolo and Mindanao.

[Muryadi] If so, why did you agree with the OIC?

[Misuari] I respect their proposal. I took into consideration their numerous offers to us. This is important because there will be justice if the ICO were to mediate. They will give their moral and political support, similar to that given to us by the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, as well as other organizations. As such, there is a possibility that they will afford us with more than merely observer status because they know that we are not at fault. Therefore, we accepted their offer, and we will continue our struggle for autonomy.

[Muryadi] What about your personal desire?

[Misuari] Yes, I wanted independence at first, but now only a handful of us support independence. This was because the war had degraded sociopolitical activities. Bullets should never be used to massacre adults and children. We sincerely seek peace and not war. We only fight if there is no other alternative. We only resort to fighting as a last resort to defend ourselves. If all our hopes in seeking autonomy are lost, however, then we will revert to our previous actions—which is to continue our struggle for freedom. As the people have made great sacrifices, they would surely ask us to continue our struggle for the sake of achieving freedom.

[Muryadi] Until when will you wait for the announcement of such autonomy?

[Misuari] We will wait for the final outcome of the discussions scheduled to be held in Jakarta in either September or October.

[Muryadi] What is your prediction of the outcome?

[Misuari] The outcome will be fair—that is, if the government truly wishes to reactivate and fortify its economic stand and desires peace. How can the government achieve peace if it does not comply with the international accord or abandons its word of honor?

[Muryadi] According to Manuel Yan, the former Filipino ambassador and negotiator, you have now become more moderate. Why?

[Misuari] It is because I am not fighting for independence but for autonomy. I have been moderate for a long time. I also disagree with extremism. It can never bring any victory to us. Besides, there are three opponents, which are: God, the people, and the government.

[Muryadi] Do you think that Ramos can accommodate the Moro community's interest?

[Misuari] It is too premature to evaluate. As reported by numerous newspapers, however, the current government has been successful in improving the country's economic situation. The political situation is currently good and does not pose any threat to peaceful negotiations.

[Muryadi] Why did you not attend the conference on the implementation of syaria law, in which the five support groups in Zamboanga City participated?

[Misuari] They misunderstood me. I made a proposal based on the previous conference. It said that I would send a delegation comprising five supreme judges and had instructed them to sit on the legal commission; however, only two of the judges complied with my instruction. They were Ustad Abdul Wahib Bidin and Judge Sa'ali. I wanted them to act as advisers for implementation of the syaria laws once autonomy was granted to the region; however, I heard that they only went there to explain some other issues. I cannot attend just for the sake of presenting myself at the conference. I should attend the conference with some of my personal officials—about 131 of them. It is not easy to go there because it is too expensive.

[Muryadi] If autonomy was granted, how would the syaria laws be implemented?

[Misuari] We have selected about 40 youths who were trained as judges, and the syaria laws will be enforced before the end of this year. The youths received their education at Cairo's Al-Azhar [University] and the Islamic Missionary Academy in Islamabad, Pakistan. In accordance with the agreement, we are given the right to draft the structure of the syaria laws.

[Muryadi] What will be the basis of the laws?

[Misuari] These laws will be based on the Syafi'i sectoral laws, as well as the laws of the Maliki, Hambali, and Hanafi sects. The laws will be based on these four sects, but with the Syafi'i laws as their base.

[Muryadi] Will this be similar to that of the PAS [Pan Malaysia Islamic Party] laws in Kelantan?

[Misuari] I do not know what the laws are like in Kelantan. All I know is that I will adhere to them with tolerance. We are not extremists. A controversial situation would prevail if we were. Besides, the world is already filled with extremism. What is clear is that we will establish a special legal system just for our personal needs here and will not totally plagiarize the laws as done by some other countries.

[Muuryadi] Why do you constantly emphasize tolerance and not use Islamic terms in the Moro's struggle?

[Misuari] It is because there are three communities existing in Mindanao, which are the Muslim, Christian, and the ethnic non- Muslim communities. As such, we need to exercise tolerance. Tolerance is the true spirit of Islam; laa ikraaha fiddin [three preceding words in Arabic]—which means that force is not used in Islam;

and lakum diinukum waliyaddin [preceding three words in Arabic], which means that I have my own religion and you have yours. We view such an issue with great consideration. Therefore, we need to exercise tolerance regarding every humanitarian and social issue. We have no wish to impose anything on anyone or vice versa. We wish to be friendly and cooperate with all Christians and with the ethnic community. This is our method of getting what we desire—without being extreme or fanatical.

[Muryadi] What is the source of natural wealth here?

[Misuari] There is gold and oil here. The crude petroleum found here is of high quality, better than the quality of Brunei's petroleum. The Malaysian Government has offered to provide the necessary training for the petroleum industry once our request for autonomy is granted.

[Muryadi] What will you name your government when autonomy is finally granted?

[Misuari] The Regional Autonomous Government [preceding three words in English], and possibly it could also be called the Bangsa Moro Autonomous Government. It will definitely be known as the regional autonomous government. I do not mind if this is not possible. The regional autonomous government will consist of 13 provinces and 9 districts; however, residents from the provinces of Tawi-Tawi, Lukasulu, Lanao del Sur, and Magindanau do not wish to be affiliated with the regional autonomous government. Mindanao and Sulu Palawan will then become independent and turn into a republic, or simply be known as the Mindanaon Republic. That will be good.

Thailand

Editorial Views New U.S. Emphasis on ASEAN

BK2109084195 Bangkok BUSINESS DAY in English 21 Sep 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Stronger US Commitment to ASEAN a Welcome Move"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US international trade policies are not often clearly enunciated, and so when a forthright statement is issued, it is well worth our attention, particularly since it has a direct bearing on this part of the world.

US Commerce Undersecretary Jeffrey Garten stated this week: "Over the next year, we want to highlight the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) region and its importance to the United States... We are going to give Asean a tremendous amount of importance in Washington."

Mr Garten's statement has to be placed in the context of US President Bill Clinton's new policy of targeting specific countries for special attention to foster better trading and investment relationships. This is part of the so-called Big Emerging Market (BEM) strategy which the US adopted through the expedient of identifying 10 countries or groups of countries with which it wants to expand and accelerate trading and investments.

The ten are: Asean members (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), Poland and Turkey in Europe; Mexico, Brazil and Argentina in Latin America; South Africa; South Korea, India, and a group the US policy makers dubbed the "Chinese economic area" — China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

In a sense, the US policy is reactive rather than proactive for this part of the world because US-Asean trade has been a major factor for many years. In fact, Asean ranks as the fourth largest exporter to the US, and US exports to Asean are predicted to be higher than to any other emerging market in the region.

There is, however, an interesting new element in the US policy, a matter Mr Garten calls "American corporate presence in Asean". It is no secret that the US has been watching the rise of the Japanese corporate presence in Asean and elsewhere in Asia with some degree of alarm. The exodus of Japanese manufacturers to other Asian nations is intensifying Japanese economic power and influence.

The US, meanwhile, has generally been content with using Asian nations as a source of cheap imports. And on investment matters, short-term hit-and-run speculative funds from the US have been the norm. In other words, US trade and investment policies in this area have up to now been astoundingly short-sighted.

If a new era of US investment policy is about to begin, we can look forward to longer-term investments by US companies — a positive development indeed if it were to materialize.

How the US government plans to execute its new policies is still unclear at this point, however. It is easy to say that Asean will be very important to Washington, but translating words into commitments, actions and results is a challenge that US policy makers have to face up to. They have reached an important crossroads, and they are pointing in the right direction.

EC To Suspend Copyright Violation Probe

BK2109092895 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Sep 95 pp B1, B2

[Report by Wichit Chaitrong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The European Commission [EC] will announce the suspension of its investigation of sound recording copyright violations in Thailand at the end of this month, according to Wirawit Wiraworawit, senior official at the Intellectual Property Department.

Thailand is meanwhile taking the leading role in intellectual property rights cooperation in Asean and the Mekong Basin countries, he said.

The Asean working group on intellectual property cooperation will meet on Oct 19-20 at Samui Island to prepare the IP [Intellectual Property] framework agreement for the Asean Summit in Bangkok at the end of this year said Wirawit, who is also chairman of the working group.

The seventh draft of the framework agreement was rejected by Asean economic ministers when they met in Brunei two weeks ago because ministers thought it was too ambitious, said Wirawit.

The final draft will be altered to ensure it follows ministers' recommendations, he said.

Contentious issues include the clauses which state that member states shall initiate an Asean patent and trademark system to promote region-wide protection.

Wirawit said the clause "member states shall initiate" may be changed to "member states intend to set up".

Indonesian officials also want Asean to set up its own norms on IP protection, instead of giving too much weight to aspects of Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (Trips) under the World Trade Organization.

Indonesia is thus trying to change the clause stating that member countries should be conscious of and understand the necessity to adopt appropriate measures to prevent abuse of intellectual property rights by right holders, or resort to practices which unreasonably restrain trade or adversely affect international transfer of technology in accordance with Article 8 (2) of the Agreement on Trips said Wirawit.

Another tough issue involves the areas of concrete cooperation, what will be written down and how the areas of cooperation will be implemented, he said.

The present draft includes eight cooperation areas such as IP enforcement and protection, IP administration, legislation, human resource development, private sector cooperation for IP and information exchange.

Thailand proposed that the Asean patent and trademark system be set up and is trying to take the leading role because it will bring more benefits to the country, Wirawit said.

Apart from Asean, Thailand is trying to entice cooperation from Mekong countries, he said.

Thailand will host the seminar on IP cooperation among Mekong countries tomorrow at the Nikko Mahanakon Hotel.

"We would like to push for IP cooperation for this region in the same way as in Asean," he said.

Thailand and Vietnam agreed to exchange information on trademarks in order to prevent violations in each country, he said.

The same project will be expanded into China, Laos and Cambodia, but Burma may need more time because it does not yet have an IP system.

IP cooperation among developing countries will certainly increase regional power in negotiations on the world market.

"We should not wait until developing countries put pressure on us," Wirawit said.

Wirawit said the European Union (EU) will announce the suspension of its investigation into copyright violations in Thailand at the end of this month.

The EU is satisfied with the progress of the government's attempts to tackle tape cassette and CD piracy.

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) in 1991 complained to the European Commission, the administrative arm of the EU, about the high level of copyright infringement in Thailand.

Editorial Chides PRC, Russia on Nuclear Tests

BK1909080995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Sep 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The Agonising Fight To Win a Nuclear Test Ban"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two countries now stand in the way of a complete, world-wide ban on nuclear weapons tests. China and Russia continue to hold back their support for a treaty against testing. It would bar testing in the air, under the ground, underwater and even in outer space. It would ban nuclear tests of nuclear and thermonuclear devices, including very large ones and very small ones, no matter how small. In short, the world is on the verge of taking the next logical step towards nuclear disarmament, and only two governments stand in the way.

This step is being considered in Geneva, by the 38-member United Nations Conference on Disarmament. There is little doubt this conference takes too long to come to obvious decisions. Still, it is the main hope diplomats and governments will work rationally to reduce and remove the most terrible weapons from international stockpiles. For more than a year, it has been struggling with the nuclear problem. The five nuclear powers have been among the most obstructive participants at the Geneva talks. They have waffled and agonised and justified nuclear testing for far too long.

China and France, of course, have outraged many and made the conference's work much harder and more drawn-out. The full-scale underground testing by these two nations as talks on a test ban continued is scandalous behaviour. In fairness, it must be stated Britain, Russia and the United States also have compounded the problem. Their politicians and generals have demanded the right to conduct tests of small nuclear devices, as if there was some difference in the principle involved. While all this was going on, France and then America committed themselves, however reluctantly, to a total test ban.

Last week, Britain became the third of the five nuclear powers which have agreed to vote for, and abide by, a nuclear test ban. Officially, all five nations which own nuclear weapons had promised to give their answers to the UN conference by the end of last month. Britain was two weeks late with its agreement. China and Russia have given no sign they intend to commit themselves to a test ban in the near future, but neither have these countries refused to agree to a ban. Beijing in particular has said it will abide by a future test ban — but just not right now.

Diplomats in Geneva remain hopeful. But "hopeful" is not a solution to the problems of massive stockpiles and proliferation of nuclear weapons. The open societies of Britain and the US clearly show the problems involved in ending nuclear tests, and then in destroying nuclear weapons. Military organisations fear a loss in their defensive capabilities, including the big budgets. Politicians fear appearing to be "soft" on defence. Scientists fear loss of their grants, to say nothing of the chance to be on the cutting edge of their profession .

Last month, President Clinton gave the lagging test-ban talks new impetus. He put Washington fully behind the UN Conference by insisting on what diplomats call a "true zero-yield comprehensive test ban." It was this strong statement which Britain supported last week with its decision to back a test ban.

Interestingly, the same day London announced in favour of a ban, Pope John Paul II waxed wishy-washy on the subject. The pope was in favour of a ban on nuclear weapons. But he refused even to oppose the current round of French nuclear explosions in the South Pacific. "France has its reasons. We should not give too much importance to these tests." The pontiff is wrong. Paris should stop its tests under the Muruora Atoll, and they are important because they should be the last tests ever conducted.

Attention now shifts directly to Moscow, and even more to Beijing. China has shown massive arrogance in its recent nuclear weapons testing. It has not tried in any manner to justify them, except with the questionable claim they are an "internal affair" of the country. Beijing rulers undoubtedly face the same pressures from the military as other nuclear powers. This is why it is important China show it can control its generals, work with the rest of the world, and halt the tests.

If all five nuclear powers agree to a ban, the Conference on Disarmament can assure an end to tests by the end of next year. Surely this is the least the world can expect.

Response to Drug Inquiry Panel Varied

Committee To 'Whitewash' Image

BK1909122195 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 19 Sep 95 pp 1, 3

["NAEO NA Report" column: "The Public Hearing Committee, an Act of Plundering the People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If someone asks the people about Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha's thundering order appointing the "Public Hearing Committee," the answer he will get is that the decision made by the Chat Thai Party is unacceptable to the majority of the people.

It is like a big slap to the faces of the people in the whole country.

It is like an abuse of power without caring for the feeling of the people in the whole country.

It is like the brutal rape of the people under the government's rule.

The whole problem first erupted when some politicians in the Chat Thai Party were blacklisted by the United States for their suspected involvement in drug trafficking. Attempts have been made to disprove the U.S. charges, but to no avail.

The so-called Public Hearing Committee was eventually formed to whitewash the tainted images of the accused persons.

In fact, more than 10 other Thai politicians in addition to Narong Wongwan and Watthana Atsawahem are on the U.S. blacklist.

Why does the government of "short-legged" Prime Minister Banhan have to worry about the two and why has it even decided to create the "paper tiger" committee?

The whole issue is politically motivated and was condemned by the people from the very beginning.

Why has the Narong and Watthana problem drawn so much attention from the general public?

Reviewing the files of their past activities and behaviors, the two have registered rather frightening images in the eyes of the people.

Narong Wongwan, the big tycoon of Phrae Province, is known to own numerous businesses ranging from logging companies to tobacco plantations, dairy farms, and hotels; he hold shares in innumerable companies.

This tycoon from the northern province is loaded with money and gold.

The people know about his terribly colossal fortune and hefty earnings from certain types of businesses.

Meanwhile, Watthana Atsawahem, the godfather of Samut Prakan Province, is a politician who always makes big news.

On 10 September 1983, a police team led by the then Police Director General Narong Mahanon raided a gambling den on Phatthanakan Road and arrested as many as 247 gamblers and confiscated different kinds of weapons, including one AK rifle and three shotguns. Watthana was reportedly sleeping in another house on the same compound.

Watthana testified that the house used for illegal gambling was rented to other people.

Despite his denial of any connection, he could never convince the people that he had nothing to benefit from the illegal gambling den.

His name came into the limelight again when it was reported that a tycoon whose name begins with the letter "W" was behind the recently flourishing oil smuggling business in the Gulf of Thailand. His denial could only add more suspicion.

His control over big businesses, including the oil trade, fishing ventures, hotels, and car import enterprise in Samut Prakan, has also fanned the general public's skepticism.

Watthana has no inferiority complex in the eyes of the people in Samut Prakan Province. The social court outside the province, however, has already handed over to him a death sentence.

Narong is in a similar position.

Their reputations were not reported just because they were blacklisted by the United States. The people in the whole country have long been watching their maneuvers in different fields.

We must admit that the appointment of the Public Hearing Committee to tackle the problem for the two will help clear up some dubious sins, to a certain extent.

Believe it or not, this problem is a quagmire for Prime Minister Banhan. The more he struggles, the deeper he will sink.

There is nothing wrong with the prime minister issuing an order or trying to help his colleagues.

If the people in the whole country are questioned about the Prime Minister's Order No. 166/1995, they will say that the order is unacceptable.

This is because they have nothing to do with the appointment of the committee. The committee uses their name, however, so that it can turn black into white for the interests of only two persons.

It should be noted that Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha is walking against the tide of the general public. It is not wrong to say that he is plundering the people's common sense.

The government and Chat Thai Party leader will later have to bear the consequences of the boomerang.

One can be sure that the United States will not cooperate in this regard.

It is quite obvious that Banhan is moving one step nearer to his demise; what he has done will not yield any good but will bring a heavy burden upon him.

U.S. Interference Cited

BK2009122795 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 20 Sep 95 p 8

[Article by Khaisaeng Suksai: "Communism and Narcotics in the Eyes of American People"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The formation of the public hearing panel by Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha appears to have gained considerable attention of the Thai people. In political circles, the formation of the panel has even received praise. This is because since the government of Chuan Likphai, Thailand has been falsely and unfairly accused by the U.S. Government, the so-called great ally. Thai MP's have been slandered for being involved in narcotics. The slander amounts to an insult against the honor and prestige of Thailand, the Thai Government, and the Thai people. The U.S. action also includes diplomatic and political interference in the political activities of the people in Thailand. [passage omitted]

In the eyes of the U.S, communism as a political system is gradually disappearing from the world. It has lost the pretext to interfere in other countries. Therefore, it has replaced the previous pretext — communism — with narcotics. The U.S. has used the narcotics issue to concoct accusations against Thailand and the Thai people and to interfere politically and economically.

Thailand and Thai people have been accused by the U.S. of being a nation involved in narcotics. The fact is in addition to using the narcotics issue to accuse Thailand and other countries instead of accusing them of being pro-communist, the U.S. wants to conceal a situation by trying to demonstrate to the world that it is spearheading the drive against the spread of narcotics. This is to conceal that it is the world's biggest narcotics market. Evidence of this is the fact that any country that produces narcotics will sell it in the U.S. market. It is also a fact that American people consume more narcotics than anyone else.

These situations make the U.S enjoy accusing other countries of narcotics involvement. A previous Thai Government had hopes of gaining political favor by cooperating with the U.S. Government to slander its own country and people, thus giving an opportunity for the U.S. Government to slander without any regard for friendship and honor of the other side.

The previous government not only failed to defend the honor of the country or the Thai people in the face of the false accusations, it added to their impact. However, as the current government formed the public panel headed by a former Democrat Party leader who has great experience in international politics and prizes national honor, the Democrat Party has clamored that the panel formation to assist two people accused by the U.S. is inappropriate.

However, in fact Thanat Khoman will work to find out the truth about the U.S. accusations because he knows well the wish, objective, and true nature of the U.S. He was among the first people to oppose the U.S. interference in political and economic independence of Asia. Thanat pioneered the establishment of an Association of Southeast Asia to discourage U.S. domination. The association later evolved into ASEAN.

Therefore, it is completely correct for the government to appoint Thanat to head the inquiry panel. I agree with Roiet MP Chatchawan Chomphudaeng, who said: Thanat cares for honor of Thai people and will not allow foreigners to slander Thailand. Neither will he be dominated by any influential groups.

I think the Democrat Party opposes formation of the panel and views Thanat with contempt because it fears the suspicions raised against some of its MP's and former cabinet ministers for past narcotics-related activities.

As proof, let each Democrat Party MP apply for a U.S. visa to see if any will face an accusation about narcotics in the same way as other Thais.

Panel Member Threatens To Quit

BK2109084995 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Sep 95 p A3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former Supreme Court president Banyat Suchiwa has threatened to quit the government's commission of inquiry if the panel tries to bolster the interests of politicians accused by the US of having links with drug traffickers.

He said Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha's Sept 11 order establishing a 12-member commission to determine the facts about the US allegations was "very broad" and ambiguous.

The order did not identify who the committee had to investigate and on whose behalf, the allegations, or even which countries had made the charges, Banyat said.

He did not know how the commission would go about its work or who would have the authority to make decisions.

Banyat said he wanted to study the details and role of the commission officially termed a "public hearing committee", before deciding whether he could accept the panel and serve as a member.

"Only then will I decide whether I can accept it. If the committee wants to investigate somebody in politics or if the whole affair is a political manoeuvre, I will immediately quit," he said.

The commission is due to hold its first meeting tomorrow morning at the Prime Minister's Office. "I can't say anything clearly at the moment and have to wait for the first commission meeting on Sept 22. Only then will I know about the details of the prime minister's order," Banyat said.

"If the truth is that we will not be working for the national interest, if it is just a political ploy, I will quit," he added.

Two other members of the 12-person commission told THE NATION that although they were reluctant to participate they could not object to their appointment by Banhan or withdraw from the panel, which was legally set up by a government order.

They said they had yet to hear from other commission members or its chairman, former foreign minister Thanat Khoman, what the panel would do and how they could contribute.

Former foreign minister Prasong Sunsiri, a strong critic and opponent of the commission, said the US government would provide the government with information or evidence relating to its drug allegations only when criminal charges had been filed against MP Watthana Atsawahem.

Prasong said that in a letter dated July 25, 1994, sent to him while he was foreign minister, the US government had expressed its readiness to cooperate with Thailand in providing drug evidence and information against Watthana if the Kingdom filed criminal charges against the Chat Thai deputy leader.

The letter, which was in response to his request for US information on Watthana, said only if there was a prosecution in Thailand could the US cooperate, according to Prasong.

Prasong said under a bilateral treaty signed in 1986 the two countries could cooperate in criminal cases, through the Interior Ministry and the US Justice Department.

Justice Ministry spokesman Wichai Ariyananthaka yesterday suggested that Watthana and Narong Wongwan, both of them senior Chat Thai leaders, should file a court suit against the US immigration agency, which had tarnished the reputation by revealing they were denied an entry visa because of alleged drug links.

He said both men had the right to defend themselves and that in the United States individuals or private citizens often took court action against government agencies.

"Of course hiring international lawyers would be costly, but both Khun Watthana and Khun Narong have the money and could afford it. This would seem to be the most likely legal possibility. To file a lawsuit against the US Information Service, US President Clinton or the US ambassador is the final cure," he said.

'Credible Results' Doubtful

BK2109125695 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 21 Sep 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Secretive Thailand; Informative U.S.?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amid roaring criticism about Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha's appointment of a public hearing committee to probe into U.S. drug charges against Thai politicians, a new issue broke out when Police General Phot Bunyachinda, the Police Department director general and a committee member, told newsmen that the police have the names of those blacklisted.

Even though he added the next day that there was no clear indication whether politicians were among the blacklisted, the police chief admitted that they include people from all occupations, government officials, businessmen, and ordinary men. He said he could not disclose their names because it would constitute the legal offense of leaking official secrets. He said, moreover, that the list was based on speculation.

The police chief later denied he ever indicated that politicians were on the list; a report said the prime minister was unhappy with the news and that certain groups of MP's in the Chat Thai Party wanted the names of the politicians suspected to be made public. The police chief then passed the matter on to the deputy commissioner of the narcotics suppression division.

The deputy commissioner of the narcotics suppression division told reporters that he cannot disclose the names on the list because it would be in violation of two laws, the criminal code and the act on narcotics prevention and suppression. He even challenged parliamentarians who want to know the secrets to seek an amendment to the laws.

The law in question is Article 84 of the Criminal Code, which says: "Officials who have or may have access to official secrets and who allow others to have access to those secrets will be considered in breach of their responsibilities." Another law in question is the Narcotics Prevention and Suppression Act, which prohibits officials "from allowing others to have access to official secrets, except when the act is performed under the law."

From the wording and content of the two laws, one can see that they do not prohibit officials entirely from revealing state secrets. In particular, the Narcotics Prevention and Suppression Act provides a condition—if the act is performed as a duty under the law.

Meanwhile, we should realize that officials who do not take action, although they are aware that a crime has been committed, are themselves subject to disciplinary action and punishment under the law due to their negligence of duties. Are those authorities who know secrets about suspected narcotics traffickers required to disclose them under the prime minister's orders? If Thai authorities refuse to provide information to the committee appointed by the prime minister, how can we then look forward to cooperation from the United States? It is doubtful to expect any credible results from the public hearing committee's investigation.

Party Adviser: U.S. Charges 'Inappropriate'

BK2109131895 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1215 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The chairman of Chat Thai Party's advisory board reaffirmed that the appointment of the Public Hearing Committee is aimed at defending the interests of the people in the entire nation, not only the members of Chat Thai Party.

Police General Praman Adireksan, chairman of Chat Thai Party's advisory board, said it is inappropriate for the United States to level any unsubstantiated charges against Thai nationals. The appointment of the Public Hearing Committee is necessary to discover the facts. He said:

[Begin Praman recording] We have to look at the problem from different angles. As a Thai citizen, I detest the United States looking down at Thailand. Why did they have to announce the names of suspected drug traffickers while we were forming a government? Why were they silent before that? I have never known a country to publicize the names of people whose visa applications have been rejected. I think that the United States intends to interfere in our domestic politics. Some people are sympathetic to the United States for they fear this or that. We should not be afraid of anyone. [end recording]

Vietnam

European Commission Official Continues Visit

Received by Do Muoi

BK2009155095 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 20 — General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Do Muoi received here today vice president of the European Commission (EC) Manuel Marin who is on a three-day official friendship visit to Vietnam.

During the talk, host and guest expressed their pleasures at the further development of the relations between Vietnam and the EC. Mr. Marin highly valued the efforts and achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the recent years and affirmed that the EC will continue assisting Vietnam in its national construction.

Mr. Muoi expressed his thanks to Mr. Marin individually and the EC as a whole for their assistances and said he believed that the ties between Vietnam and the EC would be further developed .

Says EC Ready To Boost Aid

BK2009155395 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 20 — EU [European Union] attaches importance and highly appreciates Vietnam's role in the region, and would step up its multi-sided cooperation with the country in the coming time, said EC [European Commission] Vice President Manuel Marin during a talk held here yesterday between a Vietnamese Government delegation and a high-level delegation of the EC.

He spoke highly of the significant achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their renovation process and in the execution of their open-door external policy.

EC Vice President Manuel Marin announced that the European Commission is prepared to increase its development assistance to Vietnam. He further said that EC will create favourable conditions for the European Development Bank (EDB) to grant Vietnam loans with preferential terms and conditions, thus helping Vietnam enjoy priorities offered by the EU Common Preferential Tariff to develop its human resources, public health, education, job training, environment protection, personnel training, infrastructural technology transferring, telecommunications, energy and others. The EC will also cooperate with Vietnam to organise seminars in European countries introducing Vietnam's economic development plan with the aim to encourage European business circle to increase their investment in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese head delegate, Vice Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, expressed thanks to the EU for its active assistance to and support for Vietnam in its renovation process and national construction. He highly valued the role of EU, a great political and economic centre of the world, and expressed his wish that EU as well as its member countries would step up their relations with Vietnam, thus making contributions to peace, stability, cooperation and development in Southeast Asia.

At the talks, the two sides expressed their pleasures at the encouraging steps of development of their bilateral relations in the past time, appreciated the signing of the framework cooperation agreement and agreed to establish their joint cooperation commission in early 1996.

Vice President Marin informed that the EC will soon establish a representative mission in Hanoi and appoint its permanent ambassador to promote the bilateral cooperative ties.

This evening, Mr Marin held a press briefing, saying that his visit aimed to find out together with the Vietnamese Government which areas should be given priority in the bilateral relations between EC and Vietnam. The areas brought for discussion include economic reform, development of private economic sector, technical assistance aimed at making Vietnam have access to the EC market, renovation of the banking and financial systems, cooperation in making micro policies, personnel training, cooperation between business circles.

Later this year, EC will send a delegation to Vietnam to determine the content of their bilateral cooperation and work out working programmes, he stressed.

Bilateral Agreements Signed With Germany, ROK

BK1609092595 Hanoi VNA in English
0640 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Sept.16 — The second agreement on financial assistance to establish enterprises for guest workers who have returned from Germany was signed yesterday between Vietnam and Germany.

The signatories were Deputy Minister of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs Mr. Nguyen Luong Trao and German Charge d'affaires in Vietnam Mr. Dr. Michael Banzhaf.

Vietnam and Germany, each side will contribute a sum of DM [Deutsche marks] eight million to help Vietnamese returnees to set up enterprises and job creation in the form of loans with soft interests.

"A diplomatic memorandum on promotion of telecommunications cooperation between Vietnam and South Korea was signed in Seoul on Thursday by Dang Van Than, director general of the General Department of Posts and Telecommunications and Kyong Sang-Hyon, Korean vice minister of telecommunications and post.

Under this document, the Korean telecommunications equipment and service companies may participate in projects of modernizing Vietnam's systems of telecommunications with an aim to boost the number of telephone lines in Vietnam from 750,000 to 2.35 million in the year 2000.

In addition, Vietnam and South Korea will also strengthen the exchange of information on telecommunications policies, conduct training programmes, organize seminars, and exchange visits of technicians involving in telecommunications.

Do Muoi Speaks on National Day

BK2009153695 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
2 Sep 95 pp 1,2

[Speech by Party General Secretary Do Muoi to mark 50th National Day anniversary; delivered in Hanoi on 2 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] Distinguished guests, dear comrades and friends:

In the jubilant atmosphere commemorating our nation's major anniversary today, on behalf of the party, the state, and the Vietnam Fatherland Front, I warmly welcome all distinguished guests, comrades, friends, and representatives of the all-people solidarity bloc nationwide present to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the August Revolution and National Day and, together with people of the capital, to recall the glorious periods of our nation in the past 50 years.

The resounding victory of the August Revolution and the birth of the first people's democratic state in Southeast Asia — the authentic state of the people, by the people, and for the people — were great, significant events that marked a turning point in the development of our nation. It was the August Revolution that provided us with new life following the overthrow of the yoke of fascism, colonialism, and feudalism. It led our country from a being colonial state to an independent and sovereign nation, and liberated our people from slavery while granting them freedom and mastery of the country. This great, brilliant victory will remain forever in the history of our nation. It also inherits and develops our forefather's glorious tradition of defending and building the nation for over 4,000 years.

Not long after the August Revolution, the colonialists and imperialists again wanted to impose a yoke on our nation. However, our people, in response to Uncle Ho's calls to "sacrifice all rather than lose the country and live an enslaved life," and that "there is nothing more precious than independence and freedom," engaged in the protracted war for national salvation for several decades. Many generations of Vietnamese endured numerous difficulties, acute ordeals, and immeasurable hardship in the struggle to defeat the strong, cruel, and aggressive forces to gain complete victory, thereby leading the nation to a new era, the era of building Vietnam into a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, and prosperous nation, thus triumphantly implementing President Ho Chi Minh's sacred testaments.

Dear distinguished guests, dear comrades and friends:

Our ancestors had sacrificed much blood and bone to protect our national independence and defend our precious Vietnamese nation, thereby upholding the truth: The people are the ones who make history. The great victory of the August Revolution and brilliant achievements of the past 50 years have again eloquently testified to this truth.

These achievements and victory should be attributed to the heroic Vietnamese people who upheld the tradition of patriotism, who wholeheartedly fought for national independence and sovereignty, who struggled persistently, and who worked actively and creatively for the nation. The Communist Party of Vietnam, founded and trained by President Ho Chi Minh, has correctly combined the Marxist- Leninist doctrine with the glorious Vietnamese tradition of protecting and maintaining national characteristics while absorbing world civilization. It has integrated national strength with that of the world and combined traditional strength with that of the age, while realizing the national strength as a decisive factor for all victories.

Profoundly realizing this fact and strictly implementing President Ho Chi Minh motto: "Unity, unity, great unity; Victory, victory, great victory," our party led and mobilized every strata of the Vietnamese people, various ethnic and religious groups, personages, intellectuals, and countrymen at home and abroad to integrate them greatly and strongly for a general uprising that resulted in the establishment of the people's administration and victory in the war of resistance for national salvation. This is the great lesson of the August Revolution.

Our people now have made great efforts to carry out comprehensive renovation and have made significant achievements in this task. Our economy is growing, our political situation has stabilized, our society has developed, our people's daily life has improved, our national defense and security has been consolidated, and our nation's prestige in the international arena is being enhanced. These achievements have given Vietnam a new position and strength and enabled us to accelerate national industrialization and modernization.

However, in the immediate future, we still have to carry out many demanding tasks. This is because Vietnam is still one of the poor and backward countries of the world. A large segment of our population face numerous difficulties, especially those living in the highlands, remote areas, and in former revolutionary zones. Negativism and social vices have not been eradicated, thus raising concern among us and demanding that we take decisive measures to quickly end them.

At present, our nation has ample opportunities, though we face numerous difficulties and ordeals. We must be faithful to Uncle Ho's teachings while strengthening our unity more than ever, enhance our love for one another, eliminate prejudice and hatred, look to the future, take the great cause as a common goal, implement great national unity on a larger scale, consolidate and expand the united national front, and create the all-people's strength to seize all opportunities and contain all dangers and overcome ordeals. We must resolutely strive to extricate the country from backwardness and poverty, while carrying out industrialization and modernization and working hard to attain the aims of making our people prosperous, our nation powerful, and our society equitable and civilized, thereby turning the socialist ideal and goal into reality.

During the past more than 50 years, the Communist Party of Vietnam, our cadres, and party members have made great sacrifices, fought, and taken the leading role in the struggle for national independence and the people's freedom and happiness, thereby winning the people's love, trust, support, and assistance. The party has wholeheartedly fought and worked for the people, thus winning their firm support and confidence. The party has unswervingly maintained its faithfulness to the people and will do so in the new revolutionary stage forever. The party has resolutely decided to renovate and improve its activities to build a pure, firm, and strong party to fulfill all tasks so as to be worthy of the love and trust of the people, thereby fulfilling its mission as leader of the people in the struggle for the complete victory of our revolution.

In commemorating this major anniversary, I wish all distinguished guests, comrades, friends, and countrymen throughout the country good health, happiness, and success.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Assembly Standing Committee Issues Communique

BK1809030895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Sep 95

[Communique issued by the National Assembly Standing Committee in Hanoi; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly Standing Committee [NASC] held a conference in Hanoi on

14 September under the chairmanship of National Assembly Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy.

1. The NASC adopted regulations recognizing the decisions made by foreign economic arbitrators to contribute to expanding and developing economic relations with foreign countries, protecting national interests, and defending the legitimate interests of Vietnamese and foreign organizations.

2. After hearing reports by the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court and the National Assembly Judiciary Committee, the NASC presented ideas on the draft bill to revise and supplement some articles of the Law on Organization of the People's Court dealing with administrative and labor courts. The NASC discussed a number of issues related to the organization of the administrative court and its power to try administrative cases and the labor court's tasks and authority. The NASC urged the law drafting agency to coordinate closely with the Judiciary Committee and other concerned organizations to continue revising the draft bill for submission to the Ninth National Assembly's Eighth Session.

3. The NASC presented plans for the Ninth National Assembly's legislative work from now until the end of its term. On the basis of the current legislative situation, the requirement for laws in the new stage, and the resolutions on law building by the government and authorized agencies, the NASC has formulated nomenclature for various draft laws and regulations for the period from now until the end of the Ninth National Assembly's term for submission to the National Assembly during the upcoming session.

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